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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2012



COWBRIDGE
 A Christmas Winter Wonderland - Pages 16-20

BARRY
 Inspirational Christmas Shopping - Pages 27-31



Vale to get new blueprint as the LDP is scrapped

by PHILIP IRWIN

AFTER several months of debate about the future of the Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Vale – a decision has been taken to scrap it.

The Vale Council issued a briefing document yesterday (Wednesday) as The GEM was going to press, ahead of next Monday's cabinet meeting, which

will discuss the decision.

The original LDP, passed by the Conservative administration, provoked a large number of protests, and the new Labour and Llantwit First coalition has been looking at the issue since taking office.

A crucial reason for the decision to scrap the LDP appears to be that many of the proposed

development sites on the present one were poorly served by infrastructure such as roads and public transport.

In recent weeks, there has been heated debate about the LDP, after Vale MP Alun Cairns uncovered an Assembly document which appeared to indicate that the new administration was going to drop Labour's pre-election promise to 'scrap the LDP'.

Mr Cairns said that the document proved that only "focussed changes" were being planned.

Subsequently, Coun Lis Burnett, the cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation, argued that the number of changes contemplated would mean that the LDP had, in effect, been scrapped.

The Vale Council is now arguing that, although the old LDP (drafted in 2007) had a "sound preferred strategy", there was a mismatch between the sites put forward for housing development and the existing infrastructure.

The council says that both the Welsh Government, and also local objectors, have questioned whether the Vale has the infrastructure to support its proposed

developments.

The council says that discussions with Welsh Government officials have confirmed that it is possible to produce a replacement Deposit LDP and consult on it, and this is an option that is the most appropriate and reasonable for the Vale.

The council intends that this new LDP will go out to consultation in autumn 2013, subject to a final agreement with the Welsh Government.

Whatever plan is produced, there are still many parties who believe that the Welsh Government target of 10,000 new homes over 15 years is too much.

This point was made by Conservative regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, who lives in the Vale, who said: "If these reports are correct, then it shows that the Labour council have had to be embarrassed into honouring a key election commitment, rather than carrying it out as soon as they took office in May."

"Much time has been wasted already but they do now have an opportunity to develop a coherent LDP which meets the needs of residents and isn't driven purely by Welsh Government dictat."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

BARRY'S REMEMBRANCE

ON a sunlit Remembrance Sunday – which this year was also Armistice Day – the people of Barry gathered at the Cenotaph to pay tribute to those who have given their lives to the cause of freedom.

The service was conducted by Father Ben Andrews.

For Glyn Evans' pictures of this year's parade and ceremony, please turn to page 26.

On the letters' page, Quentin Lewis, the secretary of The Royal British Legion (Barry branch), writes to thank the town council for its organisation of the event, and to thank local people for attending.



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SMOKE-FREE PLAYGROUND

A SMOKE-FREE playground trial was launched in Iolo Park, Barry yesterday (November 14).

ASH Wales, the campaigning charity, would like to see a ban on smoking in playgrounds across the country, and the chief executive Elen de Lacy said: "We are delighted that this trial is going ahead in Iolo Park and hope that it will be the first step to banning smoking in all play areas across the Vale."

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PARKING CRUCIAL FOR HIGH STREET

I FEEL I must write in reply to the letter from Coun Howard Hamilton, ('Council has plan for Barry High Street, November 8).

He says that his team of councillors have been discussing parking issues and arranging for improvements such as dropped kerbs for High Street.

I wonder if his team of councillors remember back in 2002, when a car park at Hood Road Station was created with the intention of solving the parking issues and to benefit traders at Broad Street and High Street.

It was built using council and Government funding, but then gated and allocated to the steam railway project.

Then there was the talk of car parks in the old 'Hyper Value' store,

and the old 'Buffs' club, but nothing ever materialised.

It seems that the Vale Council just do not seem to realise that some shoppers need to be able park to use the High Street shops. If customers cannot park they will more than likely go elsewhere.

With a large Asda in the pipeline just a couple of hundred yards away, with its own private parking and ancillary retail outlets, they will not have far to go, and that must surely be a worry for traders.

If this new council really does 'have a plan' for the High Street, my best advice is put it into action as soon as possible. It's the least the ratepayers deserve.

Jonathan Osborne, FocusBARRY supporter, Barry.

Lack of street bins

HAVING grown up in Llantwit Major and spent the last three-and-a-half years living in Cardiff, I was happy to have convinced my partner to move back here.

Having now bought a house after arriving from a flat in Cardiff Bay, we decided to buy a dog. I had also been encouraged from the action the local council is taking, regarding the company XFORD handing out fines for irresponsible dog owners, which I wholeheartedly support.

However, I found myself quite dismayed at the huge lack of street bins in the area, especially on the main roads through and around Llantwit.

I'm not privy to what happens to all of the

money received from the fines but surely some of this money could be used to increase the numbers of bins in the area and replace some of the existing archaic wooden ones rotting and hidden behind bushes?

It is obvious to me that it can't be sensible to expect those who are less likely to be responsible to carry a bag of excrement around with them wandering and searching for a suitable bin.

I am sure that the high number of fines reported on makes great press for the council when informing residents complaining about dog fouling, but unless the services are provided to dispose of the matter in a timely fashion, then the problem will not end.

Mike Neate, Llantwit Major.

'Mobile phone drivers risk people's lives'

AFTER reading the letter about drivers driving while using their mobiles, I totally agree with this person.

We walk almost daily around Rhooose, Barry and Cardiff and the drivers use their phones as if they are so confident they won't get caught - and the truth is, they won't.

They text while driving with one hand.

It will take one enormous accident in which people get killed before drivers and the police will stop this treacherous act that happens daily.

A concerned GEM reader.

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'AMs deal with our NHS concerns - not our MPs'

VALE MP Alun Cairns, in his GEM column, November 8, attacks the Welsh NHS and the Assembly Government about cancer care waiting times.

He says in England the target time to see a consultant is 10 working days from referral, and then says it takes 62 working days to start treatment in Wales, commenting that the difference is truly alarming.

Seeing a consultant and starting treatment are two very different things. So how about giving a fair comparison Mr Cairns? Tell us how long it takes to see a consultant in Wales, and how long before treatment starts in England.

The Welsh Government has sole responsibility for the NHS in Wales. Anyone with a complaint or

problem about our NHS should contact their AM, not their Westminster MP who can't do anything to help them.

The NHS in England has more than enough problems of its own for MPs to deal with. Independent predictions say that in 2013, quality of care in England will get worse due to continual financial pressure from the Government.

We should leave it to our elected assembly members to listen to our concerns and sort out problems with our Welsh NHS.

G Smith, Llantwit Major.

Thank you to citizens for Poppy Day support

ON behalf of The Royal British Legion (Barry branch), I write to express our appreciation to Barry Town Council and to thank them for the help in the arrangements for the Remembrance Parade and Service on November 11.

The Royal British Legion wish to record their thanks to the citizens of Barry, who attended the nationwide observance of a two-minute silence, with wreaths and crosses placed on the Cenotaph.

Who feels the need to steal a plant pot?

RECENTLY, I visited my grandmother in Penarth as usual, and we were both shocked to find a prominent plant pot in her front garden missing.

This is not the first time one has gone missing, nor are they the only items - rubbish bins have also disappeared, we assume to be used at another property.

The 2012 attendance, we believe, may have been the largest turn-out for the parade and service in Barry for a number of years.

We extend also our grateful thanks for your loyal support to the 2012 Poppy Appeal through donations via the collection boxes. We appreciate the help given by all those volunteers and Forces Cadet Services.

Without your support, The Royal British Legion could not undertake their duty in the welfare to the serving and ex-service community, and their families, for 91 years, and the years to come.

Quentin Lewis, Branch Secretary.

My grandmother believes that it is the act of drunkards returning home from the pubs in the town late at night, but maybe somebody is just delighted with her choice in foliage?

Whatever the reason, it confounds me that people need to steal such items from others, that wouldn't really provide too much use to them. We would both be pleased if this stopped. (Name and address supplied)

Do you have a view? Something you want to share with the Vale?

Tell us what you think about the issues that matter most to you - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Praise for Schools' Shakespeare festival event

WE were recently privileged to attend the Schools' Shakespeare Festival at Barry Memorial Hall.

During the evening, we were treated to spectacular half-hour performances of *Macbeth* by Gladstone Primary, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by High Street Primary, *Twelfth Night* by Romilly Primary and *Romeo and Juliet* by Murch Junior.

These performances were outstanding; the obvious hard work put in by the children and their teachers over many months involving

rehearsals after school and during the holidays resulted in entertainment of the highest standard.

An independent assessor from the festival organisers lavished great praise on all four performances.

Parents and governors of the schools involved must be very proud of their children.

This is the first year that primary schools have been involved in this festival, and the obvious enthusiasm of the youngsters taking part proved their involvement to be a success. We look forward to being equally entertained at next year's festival.

Terry and Jill Davies, Dinas Powys

When party politics took back seat

ONE must agree with former councillor, Emlyn Williams (The GEM, November 1).

When we councillors served the community, party politics did not enter important local issues. We would support a cause we agreed with and most were happy.

Nowadays, the venomous attitude of some party activists is obvious, with unacceptable results - hence the growing dissatisfaction with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

I was particularly pleased to note Emlyn's respect for former Labour councillors, Fred Cook, Ken Adams and Hector Gosling.

Fred and Ken are here no more, and sadly my husband Hector has suffered accidental brain damage and is left with only a few friends who care and support us.

So thank you, Emlyn, for reminding us of how decent he was in public life - always caring for others.

Emlyn Williams, enjoy your long-earned retirement. You were a blue tie, but then no-one is perfect!

Georgina L Gosling, Barry.

'Obama and propaganda'

SO 'the liar' won. I am referring to Obama's oft-repeated promise four years ago to close Guantanamo Bay detention centre, within one year of taking office.

It is still open. Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister, said: "The bigger the lie, the more it is believed."

Obama certainly took me in.
Christopher Short, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
15 Thur	06.53	10.5	19.19	10.4
16 Fri	07.37	10.5	19.59	10.4
17 Sat	08.27	10.2	20.54	9.9
18 Sun	09.16	9.8	21.41	9.4
19 Mon	09.59	9.3	22.36	8.8
20 Tues	11.03	8.9	23.34	8.3
21 Wed			12.09	8.4
22 Thur	00.47	8.0	13.21	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Consultation is now under way over former St Cyres School in Dinas Powys 'WHAT ARE THE COMMUNITY'S IDEAS FOR SITE?' asks the Vale Council

LOCAL residents are being asked what they think the future should be for the former St Cyres School site in Dinas Powys.

Until June this year the site housed years 7, 8 and 9 pupils from Dinas Powys, but with falling numbers, and the planned development of the £48million Penarth Learning Community, all St Cyres pupils are now housed on the St Cyres' Penarth site and the Dinas site is no longer required.

In the village there had been speculation that the building might be demolished, but during the summer the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore assured the public that no such decision had been made.

Some local people have expressed the hope that the site may be able to house community facilities and a church.

Simply securing the old

by TIM CHAPMAN

school buildings has already cost the council many thousands of pounds.

This week the Vale Cabinet member for Children's Services, Coun Chris Elmore, told THE GEM he was keen to see local people involved in decision-making over the site.

Coun Elmore explained: "The whole site measures more than 30 acres. This is a huge amount of land that could be put to a number of different uses."

"We want to progress development of the site as soon as possible; the empty school buildings have already attracted vandalism and securing the site has so far cost the council £31,000."

"We know the site could be put to good use and we want to include residents in the decision-making process."

"The council's cabinet has agreed that any money raised by disposal of all or part of the site will be invested in education facilities in the Vale."

The council has also organised a 'drop in' session for residents to discuss their ideas for the future of the land and ask any questions they may have, on Saturday, December 8, from 10am to 2pm, at the Murchfield Community Centre, Sunnycroft Lane in Dinas Powys.

The consultation opened on November 12 and Vale residents can contribute their ideas on the council's website, valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, or by calling the council's contact centre, Contact One Vale on 01446 700111.

If people have any questions about the project or the consultation process they can email consultation@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or call 01446 700111.

Constituent calls on MP to support an 'in-out' vote on European Union

by TIM CHAPMAN

A BARRY woman has told local MP Alun Cairns it is time to pull out of the European Union, insisting: "I am sick to death of us being on the end of EU rules".

Mrs Jenet Lockwood said she was a little mystified to receive a letter from Mr Cairns detailing hopes for the repatriation of powers from Europe because she hadn't been in touch with him.

But since the on-going controversy over the benefits of the European Union are a matter close to her heart, Mrs Lockwood responded to Mr Cairns' letter and also contacted THE GEM to make her views known.

She said she wanted Mr Cairns to support an 'in-out' referendum and that her concern was that in talking about 'returning powers' he was just following the party line.

In her letter to the local MP, Mrs Lockwood said: "I would like to see the UK come out of the EU completely and with no messing about."

"I am sick to death of reading about and being on the end of EU rules," Mrs Lockwood said people shouldn't be frightened of leaving the EU.

"Do you think for one

minute that Spain, Italy, and France will not sell us goods? Of course they will. If they don't, take a look at fruit, vegetables and wine and the countries they come from - all over the world, not just the European Union."

She claimed many things in this country had turned out to be almost twice the price than on the Continent.

"I am a smoker. For 200 cigarettes it is 51 Euros - £36.81, whereas here it costs me just over £68."

Mrs Lockwood said her father, a full-time soldier, went through two world wars to prevent domination of Europe by a single nation.

"Now they are doing it through the EU with France. France only uses the rules that suit them and any others they ignore."

"I have not forgotten their attitude when Spain and Italy joined the Common Market - lorry loads of fruit, veg and wine tipped up and smashed at the border."

Mrs Lockwood said she was also perplexed as to why so many asylum seekers from outside the EU were allowed to travel through so many countries and become a bur-

den on the British when France and Germany didn't experience the same problems.

Over the weekend, during an interview on BBC1 the Home Secretary, Theresa May, said Britain could not stop tens of thousands of Eastern European immigrants from coming to live in Britain in just over 12 months' time.

Freedom of movement rules mean 29 million Bulgarians and Romanians will have the right to live and work in Britain.

Mrs Lockwood said she believed an influx of thousands of people from Eastern Europe would be damaging to Britain.

'Euro-sceptic' Mr Cairns told THE GEM he had his reservations about the European Union and would like to see its spending curbed.

He said: "Most people who know my politics recognise me as a long time Euro-sceptic."

"I want a trading relationship with the EU and was delighted when the veto was used for the first time ever last December."

"I agreed with the objectives of my colleagues two weeks ago in seeking to reduce the UK's contribution to the

EU budget, but disagreed with their tactics."

"I was concerned that we would end up with annual voting, when our veto doesn't apply and we would be out-voted each year."

"Nonetheless, I have called on the Prime Minister to use the veto again in these negotiations, if necessary."

Mr Cairns added: "I am sorry that the Lib Dem coalition element won't allow us to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights. This has tied us in to some of the most ludicrous situations, such as Abu Hamza and votes for prisoners."

Mr Cairns said that as soon as the Euro crisis had stabilised, he favoured a referendum on membership under a renegotiated settlement.

RICHARD COLES

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Appeal over stolen bike

POLICE are appealing for information after a bike was stolen from a property on Stratford Green, Barry.

The silver GIANT mountain bike was taken from a rear garden between midnight and 9am on Monday, October 29.

The distinctive bike, which is worth approximately £600, has different thumb gear shifts on each handlebar and a brand new set of silver handlebars.

PCSO Dominic Bury from Barry

Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "I urge residents to ensure they keep their property secure and expensive items such as bikes and tools locked safely away and out of sight."

"A large proportion of thefts and burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves; by following some basic home security precautions you can reduce your chances of becoming a victim of these criminals."

Anyone with information should contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Petrol theft threat for Penarth Clio owners

POLICE in Penarth are asking residents to be vigilant after a number of petrol thefts in the town.

The first incident took place between 7pm on Tuesday, October 9, and 8am on Wednesday, October 10, when petrol was stolen from the fuel tank of a Renault Clio on Queens Road.

A further incident was on Plassey Street at around 9:30pm on Friday, October 26, when approximately £45 worth of petrol was drilled from a fuel tank on a Renault Clio.

Police and the Fire Service also attended an

incident on Glebe Street at approximately 1am on Saturday, October 27, where the fuel tank of a further Clio had been damaged and petrol was leaking from the vehicle.

Yet another Clio was targeted on Arcot Street sometime between 5pm on Friday, October 26, and 3:30pm on Monday, October 29.

Officers are asking the public to be vigilant and to report any suspicious behaviour to the police by calling 101.

Motorists are also advised to park their vehicles in well-lit areas and in sight where possible.

Anyone with information regarding the incidents is asked to contact Penarth police by calling 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills and Court Wards Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake and Stuart Egan will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery on Saturday, November 17 from 10.30am till 12 noon in the meeting room of Barry Library King Square. No appointments are necessary.

Table top sale

THERE will be a table top sale at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Cadoxton, Barry, on Saturday, November 24, 2pm-4pm

Admission is free with free refreshments, and all the money raised will be given to friends and neighbours in the area who are struggling at this difficult time.

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Motion Control's 'rickshaw challenge' for Children in Need

NINETEEN-year-old Samantha Owens, dance leader with the Motion Control Dance Programme has been chosen as chief fundraiser for the BBC's One Show rickshaw challenge for Children in Need.

Samantha is one of eight young people selected to be part of the gruelling challenge of completing a 411 mile, eight-day rickshaw journey from Llandudno to BBC Television Centre, London.

Sam is supporting the whole of the 'Team Rickshaw's' journey which began on November 9.

The group will arrive in London on November 16, in time for The One Show's Children in Need special broadcast.

Samantha has been dancing with Motion Control at Barry since she was seven, and is the longest serving member of the youth dance programme. Samantha has dyspraxia, but this has not stopped her from dedicating her time and energy to dance and completing her dance leader's course, as well as working with children and young people who have disabilities in a Children in Need funded dance project called Local



Motion which gives them a 'chance to dance'.

Motion Control Dancers raised £250 for Team Rickshaw and Children in Need through a six-hour whole school rehearsal for their Christmas production, *The Nut Cracker*, which they will be performing on King Square on November 30 at 6.30pm.

One Show presenter Matt Baker and Alex Jones (pictured here with the participants) will be accompanying Samantha and 'Team Rickshaw' by cycling with them offering mentoring advice and support.

For more details of the challenge and how to donate visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008dk4b/features/cin-rickshaw-challenge-2012>.

ABOVE: The rickshaw challenge involves a 411-mile marathon effort.

Ramblers take in historical trek

TEN Penarth and District Ramblers joined Joy in Christchurch on the fringes of the Forest of Dean for a nine-mile tramp around the beautiful Highmeadow Woods, which stand on the summit of a hill in Gloucestershire overlooking the River Wye.

They journeyed to the look-out point at Symonds Yat Rock, where an Iron Age hill fort once stood. The nearby Coldwell Rocks, which stand high above the winding river, are home to peregrine falcons, ravens and jackdaws that nest in the crevices of the limestone rocks.

With surrounding views half blanketed by mist, the group dropped steeply down to follow the old track of the Ross and Monmouth branch of the Great Western

Railway on a flat walk to the Biblins suspension bridge that spans the Wye, before turning sharply to climb slippery paths to reach Near Harkening Rock.

Sugar Loaf and the Skirrid Mountains were just visible in the distance through the mist as the group dropped sharply again to a forestry track, before a second climb on a very wet track led them to Staunton village, derived from Anglo-Saxon meaning: the place of the stones.

Pieces of rock near the Buck Stone, famously capsized and smashed by a group of drunken vandals way back in 1885 but cemented back together and replaced, made good seats for lunch.

A quiet road led through Staunton to the broken stone cross opposite All Saints Church, one of the oldest churches on the border of the Forest of Dean, built in the early 12th century.

The huge central castellated tower dominates this outwardly plain church with its blue-faced clock and a flagpole and weather vane, but the interior is much grander.

Sloshing their way along bogged down paths in Marion's Enclosure to easier trails through Ellis Reddings Wood, the group returned to their start only moments before the skies opened and heavy rainfall fell all the way back to Wales.

On November 17, meet at 10am at Cogon Memorial for a 6.5-mile easy walk taking in the newly created Iolo Morgannwg Trail; contact Barbara on 01446 794313.

On November 18, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile hard walk at Pen y Gadair and Waun Fach; contact Robin on 029 20514051.

Joy Strangward

Barry YMCA gives community chance to shine

EARLIER this year, Barry YMCA hosted a casting call for actors, actresses, camera operators and everything in-between to star in a short film called *Fetch*.

The response was enormous, with more than 300 youths and seniors applying for a part in the film, made in the Vale by Barry YMCA. It's My Shout and BBC Wales.

After a successful summer of shooting the video, an awards evening was held to celebrate It's My Shout's 10th anniversary of their 'Made in Wales' series.

Fetch was a light-hearted zombie comedy, and won its cast and crew four awards. An individual from the Vale who worked on a separate film due to time limitations also picked up an award.

'Best Costume Design' went to Stephanie Doel. 'Best Hair and Make-up' was

won by Catrin Evans. 'Best Supporting Actor' was Scott Davies and David Melkevich won 'Best Screenplay'. The 'Best Sound Assistant' award went to Joseph Barker for *Buddha Boy*.

Anthea Clements, Barry YMCA chief executive, commented: "I am delighted that Barry YMCA were able to become a partner in It's My Shout this year, which enabled us to give young people an opportunity to be involved in the making of our film *Fetch*."

"The hundreds that turned up on casting day just blew us away, and we look forward to many more productions and projects in the future. A big well done to all involved and the outstanding achievement in picking up four awards in our first year."

Fetch is due to air on BBC2 Wales on Thursday, December 13 at 11.20pm, and will also be available on BBC iPlayer for the following week.

MS

Pupils have a hoot with some special visitors



RECENTLY, normal lessons at Gladstone Primary School, Barry, were scrapped when the school opened its doors to some very important visitors.

Children and staff were delighted to welcome Alan Shepherd and Anne Bird from Owls 4 U, who very kindly brought five beautiful owls – a barn owl, a bengal eagle owl, a tawny male, a grey tawny and a desert eagle owl – to show the children and to share their

experiences of the owls with them, as can be seen in these pictures.

Headteacher Mrs Newman said: "It was wonderful for the children to experience such beautiful birds of prey up close and personal and to support the work that the owl sanctuary do."

"It is important for our children to understand and respect that these animals don't just exist in books and on the television but are living in the same communities in which we live."

HA

Celebrating 21 years of remarkable service



PICTURED: Teresa Burris (left) and Nona Hexter from Age Concern.

THE Age Concern Senior Health Shop in Barry celebrated its 21st anniversary on Wednesday, November 7 with a fantastic event.

To mark this long and steadfast service all staff and volunteers, supporters, friends and colleagues were invited to come along and enjoy the memorable occasion with a glass of bucks fizz and a slice of cake!

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore and Age Concern chief executive, Jeff Hawkins both praised the outstanding fundraising efforts of all the shop's loyal and dedicated volunteers.

Led by Age Concern's Nona Hexter, all

involved have made it a real success over the years.

It was also an opportunity to show off the Senior Health Shop's new look. The venue on Holton Road in Barry recently underwent a spectacular refurbishment. This was made possible thanks to a grant from the Vale Council Voluntary Action Scheme, and now makes the café even more appealing for passing visitors to pop in for a cuppa and a bite to eat!

Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan would also like to thank John Hexter at Supaclean for his help in organising and managing the refurbishment work.

BARRY MEN'S FORUM Policing at Cardiff Docks

VIC HEAD gave a talk on 'Policing at Cardiff Docks' recently, and commenced by showing an old photograph taken between 1848 and 1852 of a steam train with two uniformed policemen.

These were employed by the Taff Railway Company, and it is the first picture of a Taff Railway policeman – believed to be the oldest picture of any policeman.

Vic recounted an incident involving PC Nobby Chalk, who in the early days had a car, before the Superintendent had one, and used it, to drive the 'boss' around.

Nobby became involved in a case of smuggling whisky, where the first mate of a ship was prosecuted. Because of a suspicion that Nobby may have received some, he lost his job of chauffeuring, but reverted to policing on a bike.

When the ship returned to Cardiff, the captain invited him on board for a cup of tea (or something!) He took his bike on board and retired to the captain's cabin. After a

while, the ship's engine started throbbling and when Nobby said he must go, the captain reassured him it was okay, he could get off at the lock.

That day, there was a 'level on', which meant the ship could steam straight out through the lock, and before he knew it, Nobby was at sea.

The captain suggested he could get transfer to the pilot boat. The two boats rolling in the swell made this very difficult. Then the crew lowered his bike down, only for it to be crushed between the two rolling boats.

When he got back to shore, he was again in trouble for his actions, and for damaging the police bike!

Next week, Alan Thorn talks on 'The Assassination of JFK'.

New members are welcome to the meetings held at Windsor Road United Reformed Church Hall, every Thursday morning at 10.15am. For further information, contact Peter Westcott on 02920 594881.

PMW

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Pupils capture change for Penarth Heights art project



LEFT: Pupils from six Penarth schools have been involved in an art project capturing the transformation of the Billybanks site into Penarth Heights.

SIX Penarth schools have worked with artists to create digital responses to the former Billybanks site as it transforms into Penarth Heights.

Fotogallery, the national development agency for photography and lens-based media in Wales, devised and ran a series of workshops where each school worked closely with artists and made visits to the development site to see the demolition of the last part of the Billybanks flats and the new houses being built.

They also looked at the history of the site and imagined its future through their artworks. As the project developed it was recorded on a blog at: www.penarth-heights.posterous.com.

The pupils from Ashgrove School, Cogan Primary, Evenlode Primary, Fairfield Primary, Stanwell School and Ysgol Erw'r Delyn were invited to tell the story of the Penarth Heights site, using art, creative writing, animation, photography, sound and

video to make works that are brought together on a new website.

Rhian Lewis, head of art at Stanwell School, said: "The Penarth Heights Project took off immediately, fired by the enthusiasm, energy and imagination of year-8 pupils.

"From a teacher's perspective, the project was an ideal opportunity for the pupils to develop not only their visual language skills but also their verbal reasoning and critical thinking. It was wonderful to see the pupils direct their artwork and engage in lively debate."

Coun Gwyn John, Vale Council cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sport development, said: "The young people's artwork links the past with the future and will be accessible to Penarth residents and visitors for many years to come."

If you are interested in taking part in this project, contact Tracey Harding, arts development officer, on 01446 709805 or email: tcharling@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Specsavers duo grow their 'mos' to support Movember campaign

TWO staff members at Specsavers, Barry – director Jamie Pullen and optical assistant Leigh Whitfield, are taking part in a moustache-growing event – to help raise £25,000 for charity.

The worldwide fundraising event was first started in Melbourne, Australia, by The Movember Foundation to raise funds for men's

health, specifically prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

Donations will be collected at the store in Holton Road, with all the money raised going to Prostate Cancer UK, The Institute of Cancer Research and The Movember Foundation to reduce cancer deaths.

You can also make a donation at mobro.co.uk/jamiepullen or mobro.co.uk/leighwhitfield.

BIG Fill on way to Castleland

AFTER filling potholes in Dyfan, Illtyd, Cadoc and Court, the Vale Council's BIG Fill campaign is now on its way to

Castleland. The team will be in the Castleland ward over the weekend of November 24-25, and residents can report potholes in this area from Monday, November 19 and Friday,

November 23.

Reporting potholes to The BIG Fill is simple. Phone the council on 01446 700 111 and say you are reporting a pothole under 'The BIG Fill' campaign, email the council's BIG Fill team at thebigfill@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk or plot the exact location of the pothole on the interactive map on the council's website.

Potholes can only be reported between Monday and Friday during the week prior to The BIG Fill arriving in the ward.

If a pothole is marked in white, there is no need to report it – The BIG Fill is already on the case.

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High Street Traders hold lunch 'to give back to community'

THE Barry High Street Traders hosted a community Christmas lunch on November 13 – and in full Christmas spirit, the event was a great success with guests from Castaway and Vale Plus.

Mel Curran, chair of High Street Traders, said: "We felt that it was important to give something back to the community as they shop with us all year round and I realised that if we all contributed, we could provide a lovely event."

The lunch was hosted at Habana's, a superb setting with a roaring fire, beautiful Christmas tree and surroundings and table displays from Dr Bob's Balloons.

Chaplin's chef, Richard, was a key organiser to the event, pulling together donations of the turkey from Vic Hopkins and vegetables from Jacqui's.

The lunch was

kicked off with a fabulous starter from Food For Thought Deli, and topped off with trifles from The Lush Cake Company.

Guests thanked everyone for providing the free lunch and were especially thrilled to have received gifts from Sanctuary Gift Shop, Little Big Shoes and Miss Holmes Giftware.

All of the stores involved helped to serve the meal and got involved with the cleanup operation, including Balance the Body, who joined in with the fun, and the staff from MJM Computers.

A special thanks went to the bar staff in Habana's who helped with the serving and clean up.

With PCSO Sam Dance and the Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword, to serve, it truly was a community event.

It was such a success that traders are looking forward to planning similar events in the future.

SG



Locals tucked in to food and drinks kindly donated by local shops.



Barry Mayor, Coun Les Sword, was among those serving the customers.

BARRY MAYOR HOSTS LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP



ABOVE: Ty Hapus, the local support group helping younger people living with dementia, visited Barry Mayor's Parlour on October 30.

Staff and members of Ty Hapus are pictured with the Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword.

Rhose residents want flooding lane plugged

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

A LANE that floods every time there is a period of wet weather "gets worse every year", according to one resident who wants the problem fixed.

Denise Rees has lived on Torbay Terrace all her life, and says the lane running behind her street and south of Castle Road has been flooding and damaging residents' gardens for "a good 10 years".

She told The GEM: "People won't park their cars out there now. They can't get them out of the garage because the pools are so deep. In the deepest parts the water comes up to the bottom of the car doors."

"The water runs in to some of the garages and runs down garden paths, taking rubbish with it. I'm the caretaker in the chapel on Castle Road and if I want to get to it I either have to wear my wellies or walk around the block."

Another resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that the Vale Council had previously admitted ownership of the lane but had now changed its story, as the ownership issue had dragged on for "years and years".

He told The GEM: "I have a letter dated August 27, 2008, from Coun Jeff James, stating the lane was council property. But when

another resident recently contacted the council about the problem they were told that the lane belonged to residents.

"The lane was previously used by the public so that's a load of old codswallop. Why was a garage built behind Castle Road, with planning permission from the council, if they don't own the lane? All the manhole covers for service water and sewage are also in the lanes, so they must belong to the council because they clean them out and service them."

"People don't want to tidy it up themselves because it doesn't belong to them. You see

the council resurfacing the roads but they're paying to dump the old tarmac when they could use it to tidy the lane up."

"They don't want a lovely surface with road markings and everything, they just want it tidied."

Mrs Rees added that Murphy's coal merchants had operated in the lane from the 1930s up to around 20 years ago. She continued: "They were allowed a back entrance to the lane which was with permission from the council."

Conservative councillor Jeff James said that the letter referred to in 2008 was sent out based on the information given to him at the time.

He told The GEM: "I was advised by the Highways Department that the lane wasn't

adopted highway or highway property, so it wasn't owned by them."

He added that the situation was the same now so he had asked the legal department to trace ownership of the land. If it is not owned by the council, he would like to know who it is owned by.

He added: "I called in to residents last week and looked at the lane myself. Water pools when it rains and this causes flooding."

"I have a great deal of sympathy with the residents and it is incredibly frustrating for them. I want to get an answer to this once and for all."

At the time of going to press, The GEM had not received a response from the Vale Council. We intend to publish their response next week.



The lane between Castle Road and Torbay Terrace, seen here with decreased water levels after a few dry days, has been flooding gardens and garages for "a good 10 years", say residents.

New priest takes charge in Barry

EVERYONE is welcome to join the new priest in Barry, Father Ben Andrews, who will lead the services at the churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan, this Sunday (November 18).

Formerly serving in the Cardiff Bay Churches of St Mary's and St Paul's, Father Ben is now the Rector of Cadoston-Juxta-Barry.

In exchange for Father Ben's visit, the Rector of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan, Father Robert Parrish will lead the Sunday morning

services at St Cadoc's and St Mary's.

This 'Exchange of Priests' is an example of the development of co-operation between all the churches of Barry, following the successful 'Walk of Witness' last Good Friday.

The Sunday service at Merthyr Dyfan Church, in Merthyr Dyfan Lane is at 8.45am, and at St Paul's in St Paul's Avenue at 10am.

At St Cadoc's, Cadoston, Father Robert leads the service at 9.30am and then at St Mary's, Holton Road, at 11am.

LDP IS SCRAPPED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr Davies continued: "It is also vital that the replacement plan has public buy-in, which means that there needs to be an open and transparent process of consultation with residents, and clarity from the Welsh Government over the rationale behind the steep housing targets that they imposed on the previous council."

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale Council, was impressed by Mr Davies' comments, pointing out that the previous LDP had been passed by the Conservatives.

He said: "A number of people thought they knew what we were going to do, but the truth is that until we made the announcement, nobody did!"

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Air Cadets' act of remembrance



Cadets of 372 (Barry) Squadron paying their respects.

RIGHT: Cadet Pippa Cowles placing a cross of remembrance on the headstone of Sergeant Whittle (Royal Air Force)



RECENTLY, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, remembered the 110 fallen Barry soldiers from the great wars by laying a cross of remembrance on each of their graves at Barry Cemetery.

The event was co-ordinated by Phyllis Wells who has been tending to the war graves for more than 60 years. The cadets' simple act of laying a cross and smartly saluting each headstone was very moving, as the cadets remembered soldiers, sailors and airman, many of whom were not much older than themselves.

Phyllis paid tribute to the Air Cadets for their

assistance. She said: "The cadets did a wonderful job today, paying their respects to the soldiers of Barry who made the ultimate sacrifice, and they should be rightly proud of what they have done".

This year was all the more poignant as the cadets have recently returned from a trip to Belgium and France. Their trip included visits

to the Ypres Salient and Somme battlefields, as well as memorials and cemeteries of the first World War.

Nathan Loxton said: "I went on the recent trip to Belgium and understand the sacrifices which these soldiers, sailors and airmen made."

The cadets who assisted were Nathan Loxton, Nathaniel, Jonathan and Alex Spragg, Jack and Pippa Cowles and Toby Boss.

As well as ceremonial duties, the Air Cadets undertake many exciting activities and opportunities including flying, gliding, shooting, sports, adventure training, team building exercises, expeditions, visits and field craft training and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expeditions.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old, and parades on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Alternatively, contact the squadron on 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information.

Local school's first meeting for Parliament

ON October 26, Barry Comprehensive School Student Parliament had their annual training day for newly-elected members.

The Parliament was set up three years ago by Miss Morgan and past students.

A week earlier, 97 student representatives were elected from the 47 form classes. Staff and students also voted for head boy and head girl, electing Matthew Williams and Lilibeth James. Isaac Mayne and Skye Morham were elected as deputy head boy and girl.

Two students, Isaac Mayne and Liam Tanner, were also elected to act as student governors for the year. Both are very excited to have the opportunity to meet with the school governors on a regular basis.

Suggestions on how the Student Parliament could improve the school were raised by the form representatives. Form representatives then met with their new parliamentary 'departments' to plan actions to take the school forward over the coming year.

Each of the five departments has a different focus: community, environment, health and fitness, learning and teaching and student support.

Mrs J Ford, deputy headteacher, said: "The day has been superb. I've been really impressed by the excellent comments and suggestions aimed at improving our school. Teachers from Y Pant School also joined us for the day to find out how our Student Parliament works."

The students decided on how the school could change and how they would feel if these ideas were put into action. They also generated a plan for how to publicise this excellent work. Miss Morgan, Student Parliament co-ordinator and English teacher at the school, organised the day and kept an eye on the meetings.

She said: "The day has been organised chaos, but it's been absolutely fantastic how the day and our Student Parliament have progressed."

Many students enjoyed the day and were glad that they attended. Jordan Standing of 10SG said: "Overall, I think it's been a great success. It's been an amazing turnout. A great feeling."

Mitchell Thorngate (year-10)

MP welcomes Barry family for a tour of Parliament

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns recently welcomed three generations of the Evans family from Barry at the Houses of Parliament.

Mrs Ann Evans, her daughter Sian and grandchildren Ollie and Rosie visited the MP in Westminster after meeting Mr Cairns at an event in the Vale.

The family joined him in Westminster Hall to begin their tour of the Houses of Parliament, before visiting the well-known 'terrace' alongside the river Thames.

Mr Cairns said: "It was great to be able to welcome Mrs Evans and

her family to Westminster. It's a pleasure to be able to meet constituents at the Houses of Parliament, as it's always such a privilege to be able to share the magnificent, interesting and historic seat of government with them."



ABOVE: The Evans family with Alun Cairns at Westminster.

Fayre to raise money for charities

THE Parish of St Andrew Major is holding its Autumn Fayre on Saturday, November 17 at the Parish and Lee Halls, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

The fayre will be opened by Father Christmas at 2pm and children can meet him in his magical grotto - so come early!

Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase high quality, hand-made gifts, cards and Christmas decorations, as well as purchasing goods from many other stalls, which include White Elephant, books and cakes.

There will also be an opportunity to buy Fairtrade goods. Refreshments, including home-made cakes, will be served in the Lee Hall and admission includes a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit!

The Rector of St Andrew Major, the Rev D Huw Rhydderch, said: "All proceeds go to charity and this is the main charitable fundraising activity of the Parish."

"Last year, more than £2,500 was raised and charities, both local and overseas, benefited. Charities receiving donations from this year's fayre will include St Anne's Hospital, Lluili, Tanzania (a children's hospital supported by the Parish for many years), Velindre Hospital and the Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Societies."

JF

'More worthwhile ways to volunteer'

IREFER to Coun R F Curtis's response (The GEM, November 8) to a previous communication of mine regarding volunteers who clean up beaches.

He describes me as a self-appointed critic and serial moaner. Well, I am entitled, under freedom of speech, to complain about the things that annoy me most.

I was not impressed by what he said for the following reasons. I am not a self-appointed critic.

I only criticise what I and most other sane people believe to be wrong and condescending.

I am most definitely not a serial moaner, but I am a serial realist. Why does he not concentrate on matters in the ward he is elected to serve?

He has invited me to the next beach clean-up (publicity stunt) by asking me to join the volunteers. I decline that offer on principle. I do not see why I should volunteer to do a job that I have already paid the cleansing department to do

through the exorbitant rate of council tax.

It would do Coun Curtis and some of his fellow councillors good to realise that the people he ridicules and calls petty names are the very people that pay council tax so that they can get hugely overpaid for the jobs they say they do so well.

I can remember when councillors played out their role as councillors with no allowance or wages at all.

If he wants to do something really useful, I would suggest that he concentrates on something a little more charitable like raising money for cancer research, or helping the heroes returning from war-torn Afghanistan.

Concentrate your efforts on these chaps, Coun Curtis, and request your volunteers to start raising money so that their world can be made a better place.

That way, you would get all the good publicity you want, even some from me.

Barrie V Evans, Coordinator Barry First Group Independent

A MEETING took place on Tuesday, November 6, between the Parish of Cadoxton-juxta-Barry and the Vale Foodbank at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry - where Susan Lloyd-Selby gave a presentation on the work of the Foodbank.

The Vale Foodbank is based at Coastlands Family Church in Barry, aiming to provide food packages for individuals and families that are struggling to put food on the table.

There is also a new Foodbank distribution

centre at Bethesda Chapel, Dinas Powys.

The service runs thanks to food donations from churches, individuals, groups and charities. The Parish has offered to help by setting up a donation point at both St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry and St Cadoc's Church, Coldbrook Road, Cadoxton.

Both churches will be able to accept donations of food, which will then be taken to the distribution centre at Coastlands Church.

Check the church's notice boards for opening times.

SB

Foodbank link with parish

Councillor welcomes the Big Fill team

THE Big Fill team recently visited Court Ward with four teams spending the weekend filling in pot holes and repairing poor surface roads all over the ward.

Coun Bronwen Brooks took the opportunity to visit some of the team to learn firsthand the process of filling in pot holes and resurfacing roads and commented: "I am delighted to wel-

come this initiative to Court ward following the results of a public survey by the Vale Council and saw for myself the difference the Big Fill team are making to our roads in Court ward and across the county."

Coun Brooks added: "Don't forget, people can still report pot holes directly to the Vale Council on 01446 700111 or on the 'Report a Pothole' form on the council website once the Big Fill team have visited an area."

Hearing loss

ACTION on Hearing Loss Cymru reports that the new volunteer-led Hear to Meet group is thriving in Barry.

The project is funded by the National Lottery Advantage Fund, to tackle social isolation experienced by some older adults as they experience hearing loss.

Local volunteers Nesta and Suzanne are inviting adults in Barry who are 50 plus to join them at their monthly meet in Barry Library on the first Friday of the month for a social get-together.

For more information, contact Becky on 02920 333378 or becky.oatley@hearingloss.org.uk.

The Christmas Countdown Continues Week 3 of 7



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Cancer campaigners in 'Fly-in' visit to local MP

BARRY residents Rosina Butler and Pamela Allinson travelled to Parliament to meet local MP Alun Cairns at Breakthrough Breast Cancer's annual campaigning event, the Westminster Fly-In.

The two women asked Mr Cairns to support the charity's call to save more lives through increasing awareness, promoting early diagnosis and providing access to the best possible screening services for eligible women.

By backing the campaign, Mr Cairns is supporting Breakthrough's aim of making sure that everyone with breast cancer has access to the right personalised treatment.

He explained: "Breast cancer is still the most common cancer in Wales with more than 2,500 cases diagnosed every year.

"Despite improvements in recent years, there are still more than 600 deaths from breast cancer every year, and breast cancer survival in Wales remains poor when compared to other

European countries.

"The Westminster Fly-In highlighted key areas where things must change so more women will stop dying from breast cancer and we must act on these now.

"Breakthrough Breast Cancer also drew attention to the different target waiting times between Wales and England.

"I have written to the Minister for Health in Cardiff Bay to ask what immediate action is planned regarding the target waiting times."

As part of the campaign, Mr Cairns, Pam Allinson and Rosina Butler are also urging constituents across the Vale to join the fight and pledge their support for Breakthrough Breast Cancer's campaign at www.savemorelives.org.uk.

Chris Askew, the chief executive of Breakthrough Breast Cancer, said: "We're thrilled with the success of this year's Westminster Fly-In and it's great to see so many of our members meeting with their MPs to urge them to make a difference to all those affected by breast cancer.

"We're doing what we can to discover more effective treatments and



PICTURED: Left to right, Pam Allinson, Alun Cairns MP and Rosina Butler getting the message across that more lives need to be saved in the battle with breast cancer.

understand more about breast cancer at our dedicated research centre but we need MPs and the NHS to take action to ensure that these treatments reach all those who will benefit from them."

You can back Breakthrough Breast Cancer's Save More Lives campaign and find out more at www.savemorelives.org.uk.

'Big Wrap' will help children at Christmas

AN established scheme in the Vale that aims to brighten Christmas for young people in difficult circumstances is asking for donations.

Since 2007, the 'Big Wrap' has worked in partnership with the Vale children and young people's services and local charities to provide support for more than 500 children and young people who might otherwise receive little or nothing for Christmas.

Susan Lloyd-Selby, the Big Wrap coordinator, said: "We are delighted to be running the initiative again this year, in partnership with local churches and the Vale Foodbank.

"Last year, our volunteers wrapped and delivered presents to 145 children in the Vale and provided hampers to 50

young people. In the current economic climate, we are anticipating even more demand this year so we really hope people will support us."

Local people can get involved by donating toys and gifts (which should be new and unwrapped), as well as selection boxes and sweets to the collection point which has been set up in the reception area of the Civic Offices in Holton Road, Barry.

The collection point will be open until Friday, December 7 and donations can also be taken to Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road, Barry (Mondays, 2pm-3pm and Thursdays, 4.30pm-6pm).

Please contact Susan Lloyd-Selby with any queries slloydtselby@yahoo.com or tel. 01446 410782.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Vale leisure centres are being refurbished!

PARKWOOD Community Leisure is pleased to announce that the £1million refurbishment improvements to Penarth, Barry and Llantwit Major Leisure centres has begun.

Work is now underway at the leisure centres including improvements such as new and enhanced health and fitness suites, creation of new fitness studios, improved changing areas, walk-ways, and reception areas. Penarth and Barry will also have new cafe areas.

John de Maid, area manager for the Vale, said: "Parkwood Leisure and the Vale Council are investing a significant amount into the leisure centres.

"Once these improvements have been completed, customers will be able to get the most out of regular visits to their local leisure centre.

"Obviously, such a major development project will have some level of disruption and inconvenience, and I ask our customers to work with us through this. Due to the complexities at Barry Leisure Centre, there will be a reduced serv-

ice.

"I am sure our customers will welcome the benefits resulting from this refurbishment, which will be completed early in January 2013."

Other capital work is expected to be completed at the centres by the end of February. All public areas of the centres will be redecorated with new wall, floor and ceiling finishes.

The changing areas will have new lockers, vanity points and benches provided, and showers, cubicles and sanitary fittings renewed.

Customers who join before the end of December 2012 will pay no joining fee, receive December free and the £30 membership price for access to all of the Vale of Glamorgan Parkwood centres will be frozen for 12 months.

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Specialist college manager gets gold in national awards

THE manager of the only specialist further education service in Wales for people with autism – Beechwood College in Sully – has taken a major national award.

Matt James (32) manages the college, which caters for children and young adults with an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

His dedication has now seen him honoured in the 2012 Wales Care Awards, in which he has struck gold in the Innovation in Residential Care for Children and Young People category, sponsored by Prospects for Young People.

Matt commenced his career in care straight from school in Treorchy at the age of 16, initially working as a community support worker for people with profound learning difficulties.

He later worked at a part-time post while also training to become a registered nurse in learning disabilities.

After qualifying, Matt worked within a forensic unit of a private health care organisation, before moving to an alternative larger role within another independent hospital.

Just over three years ago he moved to his present role at Beechwood College – the only specialist facility of its kind in Wales and just one of only a small handful such services found within the UK.

Here, Matt is respon-

sible for supporting more than 200 staff from across a wide range of roles.

Matt, who with wife Carole has two daughters and a son and another baby due in November, said: "The role is very rewarding, as there is not a day that passes when I do not see our young people achieving success – from the seemingly small everyday things like being able to tie their own shoelaces to getting a part-time job out in the community. Supporting students to live their own lives as they can is what motivates me."

He added: "I am over the moon winning gold in the Wales Care Awards. However, I am very realistic that I am only a figurehead for what is a fantastic team effort here at Beechwood College."

Darren Jackson, Principal of Ludlow Orbis Education, said in nominating Matt for the awards: "He is a forward thinking, motivating and inspiring manager who appears to relish the positive outcomes for others less fortunate than him."

At the ceremony the winners were presented with awards by the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Gwenda Thomas AM.

The event was covered by BBC newsreader Lucy Owen, with entertainment from the talented mezzo-soprano, Sioned Terry.



Matt James received an award for his management of Beechwood College in Sully, which he received at a black tie event in Cardiff.

Appeal after robbery

POLICE are appealing for information following a robbery on Llandough Trading Estate in the early hours of Saturday, November 3.

The incident occurred at approximately 4.55am, when a security guard on duty at a unit on the estate disturbed some men trying to access the premises. As the guard went to confront the men, he was assaulted and knocked unconscious.

It is believed the men took the 54-year-old victim's gold chain and watch before making off.

The victim was later found by a colleague and

taken to the UHW in Cardiff with neck and head injuries.

Detective Inspector Jason Redrup of Barry CID said: "This was a cowardly and brutal assault on an innocent man who was just doing his job."

"I want to reassure the public that incidents such as this are rare in the Vale, and we are doing all we can to trace the men responsible."

"I ask communities to assist us with our investigation by contacting us with any information, no matter how small. Call Barry CID on 01446 731606, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Couple who carried baby across rail line sought

BRITISH Transport Police have released CCTV footage of two people who carried a baby across a railway line at Dinas Powys, in a bid to identify them.

Inspector Mike Jones, officer in charge at BTP Cardiff, said: "I am genuinely shocked to see that, despite our constant warnings, some people are still willing to risk their lives by trespassing on the tracks."

"Not only that, this footage clearly shows the man and woman pictured had complete disregard for the safety of others as they carried across an infant in a buggy."

The incident took place at 4.17pm on Tuesday, October 9, when the pair were caught on camera crossing the tracks at Eastbrook railway station, Dinas Powys, after getting off a train on platform one. The man is seen to carry a baby in a pushchair from one side to the other.

Inspector Jones added: "I cannot emphasise enough the dangers associated with this type of mindless behaviour. These two people were extremely lucky that a train was not passing through the area at the time, otherwise the consequences could have been unthinkable."

"It is staggering that people are still willing to risk everything by entering the railway – doing so with a baby in tow simply defies

belief.

"Their behaviour is utterly reprehensible. Parents and adults should be leading by example, taking responsibility and emphasising the dangers to children."

"The few seconds saved by crossing the tracks could end up costing your life. Is it worth it? I am now asking for the public's help to identify these people and would urge anyone who has any information in relation to this incident to come forward."

Contact British Transport Police on Freephone 0800 40 50 40 quoting background reference B3/WCA of 09/11/2012. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Charity event

MOTION Control Dance has been working hard to raise money for Children in Need this term.

Dancers have raised £250 in a rehearsal, and others have been involved in further regional and national events.

Dancers from the Local Motion Dance Company and Barry Boys Breakers, dance projects funded by Children in Need, performed at St David's Hall Theatre on November 10, in a fundraising showcase of dance schools from across south Wales, filmed by S4C for Children in Need.

They will be performing their pieces again at King Square on Friday, November 30, at 6.30pm in a free urban production of *The NU Cracker*.

For more information, contact 077250 38778 or email: emma@vibeexperience.com.

Sully's Eileen (91) tells her war story on ITV history documentary

SULLY's Eileen Younghusband recently condensed her Second World War experiences into a half-hour segment in an ITV Wales documentary on November 8.

Eileen discussed her personal war efforts as a

Four Paws' festive show
FOUR Paws Animal Rescue (registered charity no. 1117893) is holding a Christmas show and bazaar on Saturday, December 8, between 1pm-4pm at St Albans Rugby Football Sports and Social Club, Tremorfa Park, Cardiff, CF24 2RN.

Various stalls include books, refreshments, cakes, raffle, Kate Marshall crafts, Helenka jewellery, Neal's Yard remedies and Phoenix Cards.

Bring your canine pal; dressed in their best Christmas costume for the fun dog show.

For further information, visit the website at www.fourpawsanimal-rescue.org.uk.

member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF).

Working in the Filter Room, using just their mathematical skills and the information given to them, the young women of the WAAF tracked both friendly and enemy aircraft across the skies of Britain.

Eileen, author of *One Woman's War*, felt it important to highlight the plight of the Filter Room women. She said: "Nothing has been told of the work done in the

Filter Rooms of Fighter Command. Working quickly and quietly, these women were dedicated to their duty but have never been recognised for their achievements."

Welsh Heroes of World War II: Tracking the Enemy featured the top secret work Eileen undertook along with her fellow officers as they played their pivotal role as part of the ingenious Air Chief Marshal Dowding System.

As the first person in Britain to track one of Hitler's deadly V2 rockets, Eileen, along with her fellow WAAF Officers, had a crucial role in securing an Allied victory.

In *Tracking the Enemy*, audiences discovered more about the crowded and hectic underground Filter Room where RADAR information was collated at great speed and dispersed. This vital information linked these interceptions, initiated the air raid warnings, instigated Air Sea Rescue and advised artillery units for gun laying. It was the secret link that defended Britain.

Eileen added: "Recording the documentary was a very emotional journey for me. ITV took me to Bentley Priory to see the unveiling of the Filter Room window. I never thought I'd get this opportunity, but the interest in my book has allowed me to revisit places from my past."

Wet, windy and miserable – how have the bees coped?

WET, windy and generally pretty miserable – yes, I know it is coming on to winter, but this has been the pattern for the whole of the year, how have the bees at Fonmon Apiary coped?

Without the assistance of the beekeeper it is fair to say that many colonies would have died of starvation. The feeding of sugar-syrup that would only have been resorted to, if required, at the latter part of the year has had to be carried out on a regular basis.

Those who have taken up beekeeping this year may well be confused; nothing that they may have read in their bee books has followed the expected pattern.

How do we prepare the bees for winter? In all honesty we do not;

the bees usually have everything well in hand. Given that a year's seasons have behaved in a manner expected in a temperate climate, many of the pollinating insects would have coped well, especially the Honeybee.

However, the very unseasonal weather has meant that the bees have not had many occasions to get out and about to collect the required pollen and nectar to meet their daily requirements, let alone bring in an excess that would be stored and prepared to provide for the winter months.

So what am I, the beekeeper, going to do as my preparations for the coming winter at the apiary? Had things gone as planned each colony would be consisting of a base unit (floor) followed by a brood-box (a deep wooden box) and one or more supers (these are shallow boxes for honey storage).

Give old jewellery to a local charity

Cancer Research UK has raised hundreds of pounds in recent years from recycled jewellery, and is calling on Vale residents to keep donating.

A spokesperson said: "We have a stall at the local farmers' market every month, as well as our various local fundraising events. Every penny raised is a step forward."

Ring Diane Jones on 01656 784762 or Sue Sharp on 01656 773670 for more information.

But as there has not been much nectar coming into the hives, there has not been the need to have many super boxes on all hives. A majority of my hives are already in a format that will suit the bees for the winter shutdown. This is a floor, brood-box, one super, a cover-board and roof.

In theory, the stores contained in the brood-box and a full super will see the bees through the winter months. Due to my feeding, plus leaving the bees with what little nectar they have managed to put by, survival of the winter months should be in hand.

However, the unseasonal conditions may well persist into the new year, and with temperatures around 10/12 degrees centigrade the bees are still active, ie moving around in the hive and even venturing out from time to time.

This active state means that energy is required! Where does this supply of energy come from? Answer: from the stores within the hive.

If the winter does take a grip then the bees will become comatose.

Honeybees do not hibernate, they form a cluster (ball-shaped) that has the queen inside it. Here she will be protected and kept alive until the spring and its lengthening days arrive. The bee

cluster is alert to the conditions around them and adjustments are made when and where required. Very little food is consumed when this state takes over.

Will conditions change? Will the winter shutdown come about? If it does not, then the beekeeper must be alert to the needs of these so called wintering colonies. Losses from starvation are not uncommon.

All in all those beekeepers, whose principal aim is the honey harvest, will like the rest of us have had just about the worst year we have known. This aside, it is the survival of the Honeybee that has to be the main aim, the diseases that beset the bees are still with us and solutions for their control are still being sought.

In common with all of the pollinating insects, the loss of habitat due to land development and the changes on the agricultural scene do not auger well for their survival. We as a species (Homo sapiens) are largely responsible for the loss of these valuable insects, and surely a reversal in this decline can be brought about.

Harold Williams

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LOCAL AM SAYS FLY GRAZING STATEMENT IS A 'DAMP SQUIB'

A WELSH Government statement on tackling 'fly grazing' has been described as a "bit of a damp squib" by the Conservative Leader in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies.

After a number of distressing incidents last winter, the problem has been under discussion for some time. There have already been incidents of fly grazing in the Vale, with horses being abandoned in Colwinston a few weeks ago.

The Welsh Government statement, by Alun Davies AM, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European

Programmes, said that the problem has been increasing over recent years in many parts of Wales but especially along the M4 corridor.

He said: "Fly-grazing, as the problem has become known, has attracted considerable media coverage and describes in simple terms the actions of some irresponsible owners who release their horses onto land over which they have no authority to graze."

"The animals involved are in the main unidentified in terms of ownership, appear suddenly, strip the land of available grazing and disappear as quickly as they appeared, leaving land owners with large bills to repair the damage caused."

He said that the major-

ity of the horses and ponies found fly-grazing were of the Gypsy Cob type, which had a profitable export market until a few years ago.

However, overseas markets have largely dried up, and the UK market is also depressed, leading to a surplus of unwanted horses and ponies.

He continued: "The Welsh Government recognises that this is a considerable problem and one which causes unnecessary suffering to many horses and ponies."

"The Welsh Government will take firm action to control and eliminate this problem. "Given the difficulties caused to people in communities across Wales, and the fact that it crosses a number of Ministerial portfolios, the First Minister has asked me to take the Ministerial lead on this issue."

"A Welsh Equine Welfare Summit was held on September 12, jointly organised by the Welsh Government, RSPCA and the National Equine Welfare Council."

"More than 70 people attended the summit including local authorities, the police, British Horse Society, Common

by PHILIP IRWIN

Land Associations and various equine welfare charities.

"I am also aware that the National Assembly's Cross Party Group on Horses has reviewed the issue and made a series of recommendations to address fly-grazing."

"I will make a further statement in response to this work later this month. In the short term, the Government will put measures in place to address problems which may arise over the coming months, while at the same time consulting on a long term solution."

"I will consult on my proposals for this long term solution which I expect to be able to put in place in 2013."

He added: "I have asked my officials to review the existing legal

framework within which we are able to address the issue of fly-grazing."

"I recognise that the Animals Act 1971 provides legal tools and those contained in local Acts provide others."

"However, there are anomalies with the legislation given that the powers in local Acts in respect of fly-grazing differ by area. This is not satisfactory, and I will be reviewing the options to ensure that there is a straightforward, robust and consistent legal framework across Wales."

South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies, who lives in the Vale, said: "I was pleased to see this statement being brought forward, particularly having spent much of this year highlighting

the need for action in this area."

"In the end, though, it was a bit of a damp squib – with little or no detail of immediate measures to tackle the problem."

"The statement says that the Welsh Government will take firm action to control and eliminate this problem and that is to be welcomed, but words must now be translated into action."

"The Welsh Government have had all year to work on this and, while it is important to work collaboratively with stakeholder groups

to develop a long-term strategy, they have had more than enough time to get their plans for this winter in place."

"Where are the specific measures that they are taking to ensure that we don't see a repeat of the many sad cases that occurred last winter?"

On a long-term solution to the problem, Mr Davies said: "Over the next few weeks, I will be seeking to table a private members bill to tackle animal welfare issues of this kind."

"It will look at the fit and proper ownership of animals, ensuring mini-

mum standards in terms of the environment in which animals are kept, and consolidating and improving existing welfare legislation; including abandonment notices."

"It is clear that there remains confusion over the legal framework that exists to deal with issues of this nature and it is vital that the Minister continues to work in collaboration with local authorities, animal welfare charities and the police to iron out any inconsistencies and tackle once and for all the issue of fly grazing."

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Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, November 20 at 1.30pm, Lakes and Country Park, starting at Cosmeston Country Park outside the visitor centre.

Scribbles on show

THERE will be an exhibition of art and craft by Scribbles, at the Blue Lounge, Porthcawl promenade, on Saturday, November 24 at 11am-4pm. Refreshments available; visit from Santa!

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Local horse trader is given an ASBO

A HORSE trader has received an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) after allowing his horses to fly-graze and stray onto roads, causing a danger to road users and harassment and distress to members of the public across the Vale.

Tom Price, of Glamorgan Horse Traders Ltd, received the ASBO on Friday, November 9, following the Vale of Glamorgan Trading Standards Department and South Wales Police working in partnership together.

Principal trading standards officer for the Vale Council, Christina Roberts-Kinsey, said: "I hope the introduction of the

conditions will address the issues faced in the Vale.

"I am pleased to advise that Mr Price has been prevented from allowing animals owned by him, or under his care or control, to stray on the highway, and also from keeping horses on land without a valid written legal agreement of the land owner.

"He has also been prevented from selling, or transferring owner-

ship, of a horse which is not correctly identified, where the details have not been updated with his ownership details."

PC Mike Hawkes, anti-social behaviour co-ordinator for the Vale, said: "Our positive action in securing this ASBO demonstrates that police in the Vale, along with our partner agencies, are tackling anti-social behaviour within our communities and are

getting tougher on those who display this type of behaviour.

"If Tom Price breaches this order, he will be arrested and placed before the courts. We urge the public and local residents to contact the police if they see Mr Price in breach of any of the conditions of his ASBO. The community's help in letting us know when these orders are broken is vital to their success."

Sign an 'insult to Welsh language'

A ROAD sign in Welsh at Rhosce has prompted Vale-based AM, Andrew RT Davies to call it: "disrespectful to the Welsh language" and: "worse than not bothering at all when such ridiculous mistakes occur".

The sign, put up by contractors working for Network Rail, directed road users to 'follow the entertainment', rather than 'take a diversion'.

"People make genuine mistakes, and I have no doubt that those responsible are mortified right now," said Mr Davies, leader of the Welsh Conservatives.

"However, this isn't the first time that Welsh-speaking constituents have

been left bemused by blunders of this kind and it is highly disrespectful to the Welsh language.

"It reflects poorly on all parties, from the company that commissioned the work to the translator who seemingly hasn't proof read the work before signing it off. Ultimately, though, it is worse than not bothering at all when such ridiculous mistakes occur."

A Network Rail spokesperson said the signs had been commissioned for a contractor and it is investigating the cause of the poor translation into Welsh.

"We always use a professional translator for our projects and we will be asking our contractors to follow the same policy to avoid these kind of silly mistakes."

STREET SURGERY

OGMORE MP, Huw Irranca Davies, will be holding a street surgery on Friday, November 16 between 1pm-3pm, and a drop-in session at the Ogmere Valley Life Centre between 3pm-4pm.

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AFFLECK IMPECCABLE IN TAUT, TRUE- LIFE DRAMA

BEN AFFLECK could have been the perfect example of a Hollywood megastar throwing it all away.

For all the success he achieved early in his career, the critical bombing *Pearl Harbour* received, along with his relationship with Jennifer Lopez, turned Affleck from A-list to Z-list almost overnight.

His saving grace came with his directorial debut, *Gone Baby Gone*, which suddenly cast Affleck in a new light, the film well received and indicating a new career path for him.

Following the success of *The Town* (in which he also starred) Affleck pulls double duty again in *Argo*, based on a true story.

Set in 1980, Affleck plays Tony Mendez, a CIA 'exfiltration' specialist who is tasked with getting six Americans out of the Canadian embassy when the Iranian revolution reaches dangerous levels.

He plans to enter the country under the auspices of making a fake science fiction film called *Argo*, smuggling the Americans out as part of his 'film crew' - but will the plan be enough to get them all out alive...

Ben Affleck's journey to the director's chair has been one borne seemingly out of necessity rather than choice, but the success he has seen with both *Gone Baby Gone* and *The Town* has shown the move to be one that has paid dividends greatly.

If those films were examples of a director finding his feet and achieving great things, then it's fair to say that *Argo* sees Affleck truly hitting the ground running, the film a wonderfully taut thriller that manages to balance its tone superbly well and houses some excellent performances within it.

Seeing George Clooney's name on the list of producers gives a hint of the film's tone, Clooney's directorial outings in tune with what Affleck is aiming for. Here the film carries that influence, and those of 1970s polit-

ical thrillers, well, delivering suspense and tension in equal measure, while not losing its own identity over the course of its running time.

Affleck's direction is top-notch, skillfully ramping up the drama as the film goes on, and not knowing the background to the story serves you far better as an audience member. While a true story, the outcome constantly seems in doubt as the net closes in on the Americans' and Mendez's ambitious escape.

So far so thriller, but Affleck is intelligent enough to allow the politics to seep in around the edges; while not overly heavy on the ins and outs, it still educates as it progresses, while the addition of the 'fake film' element allows humorous pot shots to be taken at Hollywood that fit in nicely.

The two elements are kept from jarring by some clever little tricks from Affleck, who constantly cuts between scenarios to highlight that behind this crazy idea real lives are at stake.

Taking the lead role may seem like a step too far, but Affleck essays

the main character of Mendez with skillful aplomb, the character's well-worn nature fitting the actor like a glove. It's a turn of quiet power from Affleck, never wholly taking the lead but being involved in every element within it.

It says a lot about his influence that the cast is made up of some of the finest character actors around. The likes of John Goodman and Alan Arkin add some bite as the brains behind the fake film, Bryan Cranston brings some steel as the CIA man trying to help Mendez's plan come to fruition, and Scott McNairy steals the plaudits as one of the trapped Americans who steps up when the going gets tough in the film's most tense scene.

Chris Terrio's script gets the right blend of drama and humour, the film keeping its light-heartedness on a low simmer that occasionally pops up (mainly in the scenes with Arkin and Goodman) while conveying the true weight of the situation and never underplaying the stakes involved.

Certainly it is a film 'based' on true events rather than slavishly adhering to them, the climax 'Hollywood-ised' in order to take you to the edge of your seat, but in no way is it to the detriment of the story. Instead, *Argo* stands not only as Ben Affleck's best film yet, but also one of the finest films of the year.

VERDICT - Taut, engaging and wonderfully realised, *Argo* sees Ben Affleck take

another step towards becoming one of the finest directors working today. Handling the story with aplomb and sensitivity, its blend of caper and high stakes, coupled with excellent performances, makes it an incredible piece of work. *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Gone Baby Gone* (2007), *Wag The Dog* (1997)



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D748.

● £2,000: 677883.
● The rollover, which now stands at £1,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 542879, 294374, 424036, 786333, 664881, 726867, 113231, 382796, 765740, 329672, 706765, 652188, 349460, 325999, 737933, 554952, 349750, 449599, 826137, 166823.

● £5: 891225, 892279, 373178, 267047, 149649, 521575, 771033, 874214, 320512, 475845, 225183, 754329, 971207, 632727, 835841, 215945,

163081, 180549, 883014, 463400, 839315, 269022, 898803, 546479, 120443, 232306, 277586, 714113, 314612, 941050, 816972, 156990, 151735, 289843, 266938, 109799, 943943, 316557, 218304, 688152, 708394, 652486, 957862, 305987, 673799, 197818, 268972, 785739, 302008, 153358, 100992, 526179, 161938, 634212, 634510, 279438, 468983, 839070, 819871, 966101

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please call telephone 02920 672062.

BYRON DAVIES
SOUTH WALES WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER



byron.davies@wales.gov.uk
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02920 898929

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Out and About with The GEM

Children in Need at Victoria Park
A CHILDREN in Need event takes place at Victoria Park, Barry today (Thursday, November 15). It runs from 3pm-5.30pm.

It is a family fundraising event including games, competitions, prizes and lots and lots of fun.

Penarth advice
ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will hold an advice surgery on Friday, November 16

at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF62 1SA, between 1pm-2pm.

Residents can raise issues of concern to them or their local community. No appointment is necessary.

Quiz night
ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth is holding a fundraising quiz night on the mezzanine on Friday, November 16.

Tickets (£7) include chip supper (choice of fish, chicken, sausage or vegetarian) – reduced price for teams of six or more. Licensed bar,

desserts on sale and a raffle – all proceeds to the church reordering project.

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Contact Mel Griffin on 029 20712301 for tickets.

Philatelic society
BARRY Philatelic Society autumn fair features stamps, postcards and postal history dealers at the Highlight Community Centre at the rear of Tesco, Port Road, Barry.

It takes place on Saturday, November 17, from 10am-4.30pm.

Admission is 50p, refreshments available.

AM's surgery
VALE AM Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery at the Gathering Place in St Athan on Saturday, November 17 from 10am-11am and at St Peter's Church, Rhooose, from 11.30am-12 noon. No appointment is necessary.

Penarth coffee
ALL SAINTS Church work party will be holding a charity coffee morning in the Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, on Saturday, November 17, from 10am-12 noon. Entry 50p.

Stalls include cakes, books, gifts and crafts.

Please support the Alzheimer Society, BLESMA, British Heart Foundation, Brittle Bones in Children, Oxfam and Ty Hafan.

Fibromyalgia support

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, November 20 from 2pm-3.30pm in the County Public Library, Barry.

Please telephone Gaynor for more details on 01446 733315.

Surf Club AGM

LLANTWIT Major Surf Life Saving Club's AGM will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 7.30pm, at the club house at the beach.

Everybody welcome.

Diabetes group's November meeting

DIABETES UK is holding a meeting of its VALL Voluntary Group on Tuesday, November 20 in the Board Room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, starting at 7.30pm.

The Llandough medical team will take questions and answers. New members or friends are always welcome.

For more information, telephone 01446 746639.

Charity party

THERE will be a charity

christmas party at Karma Beauty of Cowbridge on November 22, from 11am-9pm in aid of Breast Cancer UK.

Elin James, harpist; bubbly; nibbles and raffle. Complimentary hand and arm massages, and makeovers. Contact 01446 771649 (www.karmabeauty.webs.com).

Christmas fair
NAZARETH Baptist Chapel, Wigan Terrace, Bryncethin, is holding a Christmas fair on Saturday, November 24, from 12 noon-2pm.

Hand-made Christmas cards and gifts, tombola, raffle, books, toys and jewellery, cakes, pastries and marmalades for sale. Pop in for tea, coffee and sandwiches.

Family service
ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth is holding a family service on Sunday, November 25 at 10am, on the theme of 'Jesus the Good Shepherd'.

There will be refreshments after the service. All are welcome.

Tabernacl Chapel coffee morning
A COFFEE morning

will be held at Tabernacl Hall, Derwen Road, Bridgend, on Tuesday, December 4, from 10am-12 noon.

Admission will be £1.50, to include a mince pie and a cup of tea/coffee, with tickets available at the door.

There will be numerous stalls, including crafts and cards, etc, and proceeds will be donated to the main chapel charities for this year, namely Save the Children, Y Bwthyn Newydd and 'Yr Ystafell Fyw'. Croeso i bawb.

Tree festival

THERE will be a Christmas tree festival in Llantrisant Church from Saturday-Sunday, December 8-9.

Last year's 10th anniversary raised £5,500 for Velindre Cancer Care – this year it is in aid of Y Bwthyn hospice in Pontypridd and re-furbishment of the church hall.

Display of more than 60 trees, Santa's Grotto, local children's choirs (Saturday), local choirs (Sunday). Refreshments served in the church hall.

Entrance fee: £2 for adults, free entry for children. For details call: 01443 224907.

Exhibition at Travellers' Gallery

THE current art exhibition at the Travellers' Gallery has attracted entrants from far and wide.

The twice yearly 'Open' in the Mind Café on Barry Railway Station, Broad Street, Barry, is gaining in strength and quality year on year.

Of particular interest in this year's show are the artists who have chosen to paint Barry's seashore.

The exhibition runs until January 11, 2013.

Visitors to the café can AT

Concert for British Heart Foundation

SOUND of Music star Connie Fisher is presenting a charity concert in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

The concert will be a festive celebration of the best-loved musicals of Broadway and will feature a selection of Christmas songs and carols, in St David's Hall,

Cardiff.

Celebrity artists will include Chris Jacobsen from *Les Miserables*, *Phantom Of The Opera* star Peter Karrie, X Factor's James Williams and The Operabellies.

All proceeds to British Heart Foundation Cymru – Tickets £15, £12 and £10; Box Office 02920 878444.

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Coffee & Mince Pies £1.95

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SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER - REINDEER SUNDAY COWBRIDGE A Christmas Winter Wonderland

SPECIAL FIVE-PAGE GEM FEATURE



COWBRIDGE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS!

It has been a big year for the town of Cowbridge, marked by heated debate about its future, and also by the arrival of a number of new businesses.

The heated debate came earlier this year, when crowds took to the streets to oppose the

Vale Council's plans to close the town's weekly livestock market.

It is fair to say that the numbers protesting caught the council by surprise, but one thing that the protest made clear was just how much residents value Cowbridge's tradition as a market town.

At the time, the chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, told The

GEM just how much history was bound up in that market town tradition, and his argument struck a chord with many.

In fact, the argument neatly sums up the way that the town has developed over the years.

It has managed to strike a balance between retaining its market town 'feel' and absorbing the modern aspects of up-to-date retailing.

The look of the town, with so many businesses along the main thoroughfare, and many more in alleys and courtyards just off, will always be distinctive, and it continues to offer a different shopping experience from its competitors, because so many of the retailers are local and individual.

A number of new businesses have opened in the last year or so, but the vast majority have been local people who want to bring something distinctive to their High Street.

One national chain that did move in was Costa Coffee, but the general feel is that it has added to the exist-

ing variety of cafes in the town, giving visitors even more choice.

The big new arrival this year, opening just two weeks ago, has been Waitrose and here the chamber of trade view is that its arrival adds to the mix in the town.

Until the Cowbridge store opened, Waitrose's nearest stores were in Cardiff and Barry, and already there are signs that people from the Bridgend and Porthcawl area are combining a visit to the store with some time in the town - perhaps also having lunch in one of the many pubs and restaurants.

Sunday, which is traditionally a quiet day in the town, is showing signs of taking off as more people take the opportunity to spend time in a market town, rather than in a shopping mall.

The looming Christmas rush will give the town a chance to cash in on its virtues.

After all, if cus-

by PHILIP IRWIN



ABOVE: Jael Jones of the Dogs Trust with her own rescue dog, Malone, who she rehomed from the Bridgend centre six months ago.

tomers are being offered the chance to browse in a relaxing atmosphere, rather than in a hectic urban shopping centre, they can arrive home feeling much less stressed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

A Christmas message from the town mayor

As the Vale enters the run-up to Christmas, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Nicola Thomas, has a special message for children (and their parents).

She said: "Calling all children. The Mayor of Cowbridge, can confirm that it is official! "Santa and his reindeer will be coming to Cowbridge once again this year, on Sunday, November 25, and we feel so lucky that Santa is coming back to our town."

"This must mean that he thinks Cowbridge is a great place to visit, with lots of well-behaved and kindly children to look after his reindeer."

"Of course, it also has lots of lovely shops for mums and dads to browse, and lots of great eating out places for all the family."

"Do come along and don't forget to bring mums and dads with you. Stay a while after Santa leaves and help us turn on the Christmas lights in Cowbridge, or visit the wonderful Christmas tree festival at Holy Cross Church - truly a wonder to behold!"

"Christmas is a time for fun and Cowbridge certainly knows how to provide that!"

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Christmas Markets

Bath

£18

Bath Christmas Market 130 quaint wooden stalls line the squares and streets surrounding the impressive Bath Abbey, selling everything you could possibly need for your festive celebrations. With designer boutiques all around, you can't fail to find everything you are looking for.

Birmingham Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market has become a huge favourite with both residents and visitors to the city from all over the UK and Europe. Combined with the city's own Christmas Craft Fair of local traders, it offers a total of over 180 stalls to browse and enjoy.

Monthly Shopper

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Why not stock up for Christmas and make fantastic savings with Duty Free Wines, Spirits, Beers and all Tobacco products. Plus fabulous savings on perfumes, make-up, cosmetics and lots more for this special low price. Book your seat early. (Make sure you have a current passport).

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TOWN PUTS ON ITS OWN PANTO!

FOLLOWING last year's extremely successful performance of the pantomime *Peter Pan*, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council has decided to repeat the venture, and is very pleased to announce that on Wednesday, December 12, a production of *Aladdin*, presented by a professional company 'Fame Factory Spotlight', will be held upstairs in the Town Hall.

The performance will start at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm) and tickets are £5, the same as last year, and can be purchased either from the town clerk's office (Monday to Friday, 9am-1pm) or from David Barnes, Dry Cleaners (during normal business hours).

This year's pantomime promises, once again, to be a fun-filled extravaganza with music and songs, as well as traditional pantomime characters and surprises, and will provide pre-Christmas festive fun for the whole family, young, old and in between. Confectionery and ice cream will be available at the performance.

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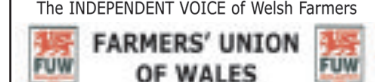
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SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER - REINDEER SUNDAY

COWBRIDGE

A Christmas Winter Wonderland

SPECIAL FIVE-PAGE GEM FEATURE



Christmas in Cowbridge offers everything you want



ABOVE:
Rebecca James of the Eating Place.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16
Add to that the fact that so many items on sale in Cowbridge are not readily available elsewhere, so the shopper can arrive home tired, but confident that they have selected something that is really distinctive.

Another factor in making Cowbridge a serious shopping destination is that parking is still free in the town!

If you can judge a town's business health by the number of vacant shop units, then you can't help feeling that Cowbridge is in good shape.

If any trader moves out, then a new one moves in rapidly.

In fact, the town's High Street is, if anything, extending as more retailers move in – particularly out towards Eastgate.

Victoria Ward, who runs Bijou, a children's play centre, said: "I live in Cowbridge and, with two young children, I wanted to open a quality business and to me, Cowbridge stands for quality, independent businesses."

"We opened almost a year ago and people are so friendly. We wanted to create a family club atmosphere, and the welcome we received has made that happen."

"I think Eastgate is getting more prominent now, and events such as the food festival have definitely been a help."

Another newcomer to Cowbridge, also in Eastgate, has been the Dogs Trust, which had a high-profile opening 12 months ago when actor John Barrowman made a personal appearance.

Manager Jael Jones is delighted to be here. She said: "We are constantly amazed by the huge amount, and quality, of the donations we receive at the charity boutique."

"Our team of volunteers are second to

none and we couldn't do what we do without their hard work and commitment."

"Cowbridge has welcomed us with open arms and we love getting involved in community events such as the Food and Drink Festival, Santa Parade and Christmas Tree Festival."

"Since opening we have raised well over £60,000 for the many needy dogs in our care!"

Further down towards the High Street, Rebecca James runs the Eating Place, which specialises in sandwiches made to order on the spot and various smoothies.

Rebecca is another recent arrival in the town and said: "I opened in June and it is my first business venture."

"People have been very friendly and there is a real sense of community here."

Another new business, this time at the other end of the town, is daisy & jack, described by owner Natalie Davies as a 'children's department store'.

Natalie said: "I'm a local girl who grew up here and I thought that my business idea fills a niche in the market – and it fits in well with Cowbridge because people expect to find different shops when they visit the town."

"There is no need to leave Cowbridge to shop – everything you need is here."

The town's excellent mix of shops mean that you get a real sense of variety walking around, and even people who think they know the town well will often



ABOVE: Natalie Davies of daisy & jack.

be surprised when they stumble across somewhere new.

Whether your taste is for boutiques, antiques, gift shops, distinctive furniture, food or hardware, there is so much to see and, when the feet start to protest, there are so many places where you can stop and take a break.

Whether you want a welcoming cafe, a smart restaurant, a pub lunch, tapas or snack bar, Cowbridge can provide just that.

Indeed, spend a little time just looking at the buildings around you and you will see that many, behind the 20th Century facade, hide a history that goes back centuries.

Blue plaques abound and most houses have a history and a story to tell. Wander into the Physic Garden, so named because the only plants there are those used by medical physicians in times past.

Take a good look at Holy Cross

Church – a beautiful old church that plays a huge part in the community.

Simply stroll in the side streets and courtyards and take in the history of the town.

Cowbridge has great shopping, great eating – and so much more besides!

BEAUTY SALON'S CHARITY EVENT

COWBRIDGE business Karma Beauty is holding an all-day charity event (9am–6pm) on Thursday, November 22.

Entrance is £2 and proceeds will be donated to Breast Cancer UK.

A spokeswoman said: "There will be mince pies, mulled wine, free hand and arm massages, and a free Jane Iredale make-over."

"If you join us in the night, our guest harpist, Elin, will be playing Christmas classics!"

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NEWSFLASH: Father Christmas is coming to Daisy & Jack on **Saturday 8th**, from 10 am - 4pm.

It costs £5 to see him (fuel money for his sleigh) and every child receives a treat on the day!

Book early to avoid disappointment

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SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER - REINDEER SUNDAY

COWBRIDGE

A Christmas Winter Wonderland

SPECIAL FIVE-PAGE GEM FEATURE



'All our yesterdays' – Cowbridge looks back

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THE exhibition in Old Hall last year of photographs of Cowbridge in the not-too-far-distant past attracted huge interest.

People flocked to view it that weekend of opening and a good many memories were stirred and shared, and so it continued for several weeks afterwards.

There is so much more material stored in the local history room which could be aired. Consequently, a further exhibition of 'Cowbridge Yesterday' is to be held in the library throughout December and January.

Quite possibly, some

of the photos will be changed part-way through to allow more to be shown. Do make a point of coming along to see what you can remember of our local buildings, events and people.

Changes both subtle and obvious, are occurring here in the town and its surrounding area all the time. The local history room tries to ensure we preserve records of how things were.

We are always grateful for donations or loans (to make copies) of old snapshots, programmes, etc, and we welcome visitors to the room when it opens on Wednesday mornings in Old Hall.

Betty Alden

Organisers look forward to Reindeer Parade – THE BIGGEST AND BEST IN WALES

ORGANISERS of the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade are promising that it will be even bigger and better this year.

Spokesman Alun John said: "Cowbridge's reindeer day is the original and the best. It's one of the biggest and most successful free events in Wales."

The Reindeer Parade, which is organised by the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, this year has a new main sponsor in Bridgend and the Vale NFU Mutual.

Mr John, who is the chairman of the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, emphasised that reindeer day is more than just a parade.

He said: "There are things happening all day long, and it culminates in the switching-on of the town's Christmas lights at around 5.15pm."

"A stage will be set up outside Cowbridge Town Hall, and acts will be playing from 11am, hosted by Aubrey."

"The Reindeer Parade will

start at noon from the western end of town, and the road will be closed between noon and 1pm.

"After the parade, the reindeer will be in their enclosure so that the children can get a good look at them, and there will be more music on the stage during the afternoon."

"A fair will be operating in Arthur John's car park, and there will also be a Christmas market in the Old Hall Gardens, organised in association with the Cowbridge Hub."

He continued: "The build-up to the Christmas lights switch-on will start at 4.45pm, and TV weathergirl and presenter Ruth Wignall will be switching them on, at about 5.15pm."

The main sponsors, Bridgend and the Vale NFU Mutual, will also have a stall behind the town hall, where they will be offering mulled wine and children's activities, including temporary tattoos.

Julian Kelly of the NFU Mutual, said: "We look forward to welcoming existing customers, and new ones, and

hope they will join us for a glass of mulled wine."

The NFU Mutual ran a competition for local children and, as a result, one lucky young man will be riding in Santa's sleigh – dressed for the occasion by local children's store, Scallywags.

There will be extra car parking at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, which is only a short walk from the town centre.

Alun John said: "On behalf of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade and all the organisers, I would like to welcome everyone to the Reindeer Parade."

"I would very much like to thank the Bridgend and the Vale NFU Mutual for coming on board as main sponsors."

"My thanks also go to our other sponsors, Waitrose and the Vale Council."

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**A Fabulous Family Day
...SUNDAY 25th November
COWBRIDGE Chamber of Trade
is pleased to present...**

**Their Famous Reindeer Parade
& Celebrity Light Switch On with
RUTH WIGNALL**

10.00am Participating shops open in the town, live music from RAF St Athan Brass Band plus local bands and choirs and entertainment including a fun fair in the town all day

11.30am Children who wish to join parade, meet at Police station in nativity fancy dress

12 noon Reindeer Parade down the main high street

2.00pm Reindeer behind town hall for all to see and Father Christmas Grotto open in Town Hall

4.45pm Ruth Wignall will officially turn on the Christmas Lights sponsored by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cowbridge Chamber of Trade

www.cowbridge.co.uk

Waitrose The Glamorgan GEM is proud to have instigated and supported this popular event

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**SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER - REINDEER SUNDAY**  
**COWBRIDGE**  
**A Christmas Winter Wonderland**  
 SPECIAL FIVE-PAGE GEM FEATURE

**COWBRIDGE COMMUNITY JOINS TOGETHER FOR CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**ORGANISERS** are expecting this year's Cowbridge Christmas Tree Festival to be a really special event.

The festival will take place over three days, November 23-25, in Holy Cross Church, which is the ideal venue

to enjoy more than 60 Christmas trees.

Each tree has a different design, so, from the traditional to contemporary - everyone will find something to their taste.

Besides the glittering backdrop of the trees, the festival also has lots of entertainment for all the family to enjoy.

The doors open on Friday, November 23, 10.30am-3.30pm. In the evening at 7.30pm, Cowbridge Male Voice Choir will give a gala concert, and new for this year, Cowbridge Comprehensive School Music Group will be taking part. Tickets cost £7.50 and are available

from Sorrento Furnishers, High Street, Cowbridge, the Parish Office, Church Street, Cowbridge or by telephone from Mr Frank Maynard, on 01446 772454.

Saturday opening is 10am-5pm. At 10.30am St Brides Major Primary School Choir will present their Christmas concert and at noon, the Cowbridge Hand Bell Ringers will be playing. Father Christmas will arrive following the St Brides concert and will be in his grotto all day Sunday as well as to say hello to everyone.

Sunday opening is 12 noon-4pm. To stave off any hunger pangs and ward off the cold weather, a barbeque serving burgers, hot dogs and hot rolls is available from 12 noon to 2pm.

The festival is free to under-16s. Adult tickets cost £3. All proceeds will go towards this year's nominated charity,

the Stroke Association, and to the Holy Cross Restoration Appeal.

For further details, contact 01446 774 264.

KH

**Taster day at the country market**

**ON Friday, November 16, Cowbridge Country Market will be holding a free taster day.**

There will be an opportunity to sample a selection of baked goods and preserves which can then be ordered for Christmas.

Please remember that we now open from 9.30am to 11.30am, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

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 Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce  
 Goat Cheese Chutney Tart with Honey & Mustard Glaze with New Potatoes & Red Onion  
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All main courses served with a selection of seasonal fresh roast vegetables and a traditional home made gravy

Traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce

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\*With a choice of Ice Cream or Cream

Why wait 'til Christmas . . .

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**SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER - REINDEER SUNDAY**

**COWBRIDGE**  
**A Christmas Winter Wonderland**  
 SPECIAL FIVE-PAGE GEM FEATURE

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# SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER - REINDEER SUNDAY

## COWBRIDGE

### A Christmas Winter Wonderland

SPECIAL FIVE-PAGE GEM FEATURE



## Taking a look back over last year's Reindeer Parade



ABOVE AND LEFT: Children are thrilled to witness Cowbridge Reindeer Parade – and to see Father Christmas!



## Dealing with the stresses and strains of Christmas

**T**HE onslaught of the silly season is upon us, when days are short and nights are cold and dark.

For many it's a time of parties, fairy lights, family fun and nights in by a cosy warm fire.

For others it can mean misery – trudging through crowds, battling traffic, finding Christmas gifts, wrapping them, organising everyone else's celebrations – often leaving them too exhausted to enjoy Christmas.

Feeling overburdened and unappreciated can create stress – even anger.

Local hypnotherapist Sue Pitman says that it doesn't have to be all doom and gloom.

She recently set up her hypnotherapy practice from Barefoot Studio in Cowbridge ([www.cardiffhypnotherapy.com](http://www.cardiffhypnotherapy.com)) and has been delighted by the warm welcome and response she has had from the people of Cowbridge and the Vale.

Her advice to avoid the festive blues is to remain positive, solution focused and first and foremost, prioritise your own wellbeing to ensure survival of your health and happiness well into the New Year!

To see Sue's editorials in The GEM, keep an eye out for the monthly 'In Business' section where they are featured.

**liquorice laces**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

For inspirational gifts this Christmas

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## ...IT'S AN ACTOR'S LIFE FOR ME!



One company that finds Cowbridge a great place to do business is Stagecoach Theatre Arts, based at The Old Hall on the High Street. Weekly classes teach children aged three to 18 to act, sing and dance, while building confidence and developing "skills for life". Stagecoach is now enrolling new students to join in January 2013. Visit [www.stagecoach.co.uk](http://www.stagecoach.co.uk) or call Helene and Rob on 01446 781454 for more information.



ABOVE: Sue Pitman

[www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk](http://www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk)

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## Congratulations Hayley and Owen!

**W**ELL done to two members of the team at The Hair Business – Hayley and Owen – who have shown outstanding 'stylist' skills over the last few years.

As a reward for being consistently committed, supporting others and the business, and for providing the team with great role models in conducting themselves profession-

ally, they are being flown to Las Vegas to join Redken at the Redken Symposium 2013.

While there, they will be the first to hear about new product launches, visit creative shows by industry talents and enjoy the hair shows on offer – and enjoy the bright lights of Vegas!

Well done guys – enjoy the trip as you thoroughly deserve the reward.

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**Another Great GEM Reader Competition**

in conjunction with

**Bijou** meet eat party play

### 3 Lucky Readers can win £50 Party Vouchers

Bijou Play Centre in Cowbridge is celebrating its first birthday this month and as part of its celebrations are offering 3 lucky winners £50 birthday party vouchers to use at Bijou to celebrate their birthday!

### Bijou Birthday Party Word Search . . .

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
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| I | C | E | C | R | E | A | M | N | D | W | H | E | G | N | HATS          |
| N | Y | O | U | I | R | E | A | C | H | E | I | P | A | G | CAKE          |
| V | H | T | Y | B | H | S | N | O | O | L | L | A | B | N | ICE CREAM     |
| I | N | E | B | S | A | T | Y | O | R | T | O | R | T | N | CANDLES       |
| T | D | E | C | O | R | A | T | I | O | N | S | T | F | E | INVITATIONS   |
| A | H | U | N | N | E | S | D | S | R | G | E | Y | I | D | CARDS         |
| T | Y | S | E | S | K | A | R | R | U | S | O | F | G | F | LOOT BAGS     |
| I | A | E | G | E | A | Y | O | E | S | D | R | A | C | F | DECORATIONS   |
| O | U | L | G | A | M | E | S | R | M | H | E | V | C | R | FRIENDS       |
| N | E | D | I | V | E | T | I | E | A | A | N | O | T | I | PARTY FAVOURS |
| S | E | N | C | L | S | E | N | G | R | P | E | U | A | E | FUN           |
| W | R | A | P | P | I | N | G | P | A | P | E | R | F | N | PRESENTS      |
| M | K | C | F | R | O | O | M | T | H | Y | E | S | T | D | GAMES         |
| E | Q | U | E | E | N | N | L | O | O | T | B | A | G | S | RIBBONS       |

All you need to do is find the listed words in the search.  
Complete attached coupon and post your entry to: Glamorgan GEM Ltd.,  
(Bijou Competition) 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL

Name .....  
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Email address .....

(Prize vouchers are valid for 6 months and may not be used in conjunction with any other offers).

Closing date Friday, 23rd November. The winning entries will be announced on the What's On pages of the GEM, Thursday, 29th November. Normal competition rules apply. No correspondence will be entered into. Judges decision is final.



# A RURAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY VILLAGE

## PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

THIS YEAR, Armistice Day fell on Remembrance Sunday, and there was a large turn-out at Peterston-super-Ely, where villagers paid their respects in a manner that was slightly different to the larger Vale communities.

Horses, ponies and dogs were all welcome at the service, which was led by Father Edwin Counsell, who also read out the roll call of villagers who had perished in the two World Wars.

The wreath was laid by Charles Slater, and The Last Post was played by Cathedral schoolboy Sebastian Wiggins.

It was an emotional moment as his cornet's pure notes echoed mournfully around the still Vale Valley.

It was noticeable that many of the pony and horse riders chose to wear the red poppy and the purple poppy.

The purple poppy, which remembers those animals that died in wars – has become more popular lately, perhaps after the recent film *War Horse* dramatised their story so powerfully.





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# Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre opens doors to public

THE Barry Island Tourist Railway once more took a trip back in time recently, as the Barry at War Group launched the new Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island Railway

Station.

Visitors were able to see the research that is being undertaken by the group and to get hands-on with history.

The military vehicles, including a Second World War Jeep and GMC truck, proved particularly popular. Living historians also helped

bring history to life, backed up by illustrated talks on both the First and Second World Wars.

Group chairman Ade Pitman said: "Our first open day was both educational and fun for all the family, and on a cold, wet November Sunday we certainly looked to be the busiest attraction on the Island with around 150 visitors passing through.

"Although entry to the centre is free, thanks to the generosity of our visitors we raised a total of £150.17. This will now go towards improving the facility.

"Our first priority is making the necessary alterations to the building, as at the moment the lighting is inadequate for museum use and we have a leaking roof.

"With the advice and support of the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services we are also applying for grants to help us with the necessary work, and if successful we hope the centre will be ready for the summer season and be able to provide a venue for school visits by next September.

"We are also plan-

ning to build some interactive exhibits, which will help to bring history alive for our visitors.

"With 2013 being the 'Year of the Convoy' and 2014 being both the centenary of the First World War, and the 70th anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings, the timing of our launch couldn't have been any better.

"We've drawn up a list of events, and aim to open the centre on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer. A Spitfire has been booked for the popular Wartime Weekend Event that will take place on August 31/September 1, 2013, and we're now working on plans for 2014."

Vale AM Jane Hutt added: "I've been a supporter of the Barry at War Group since they founded. Their ability to research and promote the area's history and then to pass this on to younger generations in an interesting way should be recognised."

Vale MP Alun Cairns continued: "This facility will provide a focal point where people can come to both learn

about the wartime experience of Glamorgan, and to contribute memories of their own, which will further aid the group's research.

"The Barry at War History Group does a terrific amount of work for the community, young and old, and I would like to urge everyone to help support them in any way possible."

Ade Pitman concluded: "We're always keen to hear from people interested in Glamorgan's wartime heritage. We're also keen to hear from local businesses that may be able to help us by donating the materials and services that we need, or who could sponsor our work in other ways."

Barry at War Group are also holding a 'Remembrance Exhibition' in Barry Library until November 17, and will be re-opening the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre to the public on Sunday November 18, from 10am-1pm.

Call Ade Pitman on 07930 874161, or see the website: [www.barryatwar.info](http://www.barryatwar.info) for more information.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

## Do a 'double take' and re-home Zippy and Enzo together

THERE is a Chinese saying: 'good things come in pairs', and this certainly does seem to be true.

Zippy and Enzo are two inseparable four-legged friends who need to find a new home together.

Dogs Trust Bridgend is urging potential dog owners to do a 'double take' before rehoming a single dog and consider offering a home to this delightful pair.

Zippy is a five-year-old Collie Cross who hasn't had much luck in life. He has never managed to stay in one home for long, and each time he finds a home he arrives back at Dogs Trust a little bit more anxious.

He suffers from what is known as separation anxiety, which means that each time he bonds with anyone, two or four-legged, and they leave his life, he becomes very upset.

That was until he met his best friend, Enzo, who is a 10-month-old Terrier Cross also look-



Zippy and Enzo are the best of friends and are looking for a new home together.

ing for a home. Enzo was a stray but he is full of confidence and is the perfect kennel mate for Zippy.

Beverly Price, Dogs Trust Bridgend Rehoming Centre manager beamed: "Enzo couldn't be more different in personality and looks to Zippy, but they are wonderful together."

"Enzo has helped put some security and stability into Zippy's life.

We couldn't bear Zippy to go through the heartache of separation again, so we are hunting for the perfect home to take both of them in.

"They can go to a home with children but they should be over six years of age."

Anyone interested in offering Zippy and Enzo, or any of the other residents a new home, visit:

[www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk).

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# LOCAL MP CONTINUES TO SUPPORT INVESTORS IN FROZEN FUNDS AS... Couple get £36,000 payout from national compensation scheme

A Vale couple have succeeded in getting a £36,000 payout from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme after their investment in the Arch Cru funds was frozen in 2009.

Cardiff-based accountant Huw Roberts said he had made the claim on behalf of the couple, who wish to remain anonymous, due to miss-selling.

The Arch Cru funds were frozen due to the illiquidity of underlying investments.

The Vale's MP Alun Cairns has played a significant role in bringing the financial debacle to public attention.

Mr Roberts told The GEM: "Having approached me in considerable distress, I prepared a detailed claim for mis-selling on behalf of my clients and I am delighted that they have now received £36,000 from the Financial Services Compensation

Scheme. "There are many other individuals who have been mis-sold the investments and they will hopefully now be able to use this case as a precedent for their claims."

Mr Roberts said the couple had had savings in a broad range of investments to spread the risk, but were persuaded to invest in the funds by a firm of independent financial advisers in Cardiff, which subsequently went into administration.

The Vale couple had approached Mr Roberts in 2011 and he then prepared a case to be put to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

The Vale's MP Alun Cairns has provided support to investors in the funds. He was elected chairman of the all-party parliamentary group (APPG) for Arch Cru in November 2011.

The funds were suspended in March 2009 and the Financial Services Authority had taken little action until Mr Cairns raised the

issue in Parliament on behalf of his constituents. 'PUBLIC INTEREST' Further research by Mr Cairns uncovered the complexity of the fund and the Vale MP has met with the key parties to urge a settlement.

Mr Cairns has succeeded in gaining a compensation package from Capita, and is leading a negotiated settlement between all parties involved, to be led by the FSA and Guernsey Financial Services Commission.

Mr Cairns explained: "Since I was approached early in 2011 by concerned constituents regarding the monies they had invested into the Arch Cru Fund, and the debacle that ensued, I've been doing all I can to help bring the case to light."

"The Arch Cru Funds were suspended by Capita because of an apparent lack of liquidity."

"This meant that around 15,000 clients across the UK would stand to lose approximately £442m of invest-

ments and the Vale had a relatively high number of investors."

"The formation of the parliamentary group has meant that the issue has been raised in Parliament, and continued pressure has been put on key parties to ensure suitable compensation for the investors."

"I understand that there may be some interest from some of the insurers to talk, but not others. There is a clear need for them to realise that this is a matter of keen public interest."

The Vale AM added: "I am happy that Capita agreed to extend the deadline for acceptance of their payment scheme, although they are yet to publish the terms behind the decision for the £54m compensation package."

## Roadworks report

TEMPORARY traffic control: Ongoing extensive carriageway resurfacing works in the Vale of Glamorgan area. For up to date information, go to the Vale of Glamorgan website: **Port Road, Barry, at the junction with Pencoedre Lane, Barry.** Road closure: **Sigginstone Village, Sigginstone.**

## Try a Cardiff to Dublin bike ride for Marie Curie

ARE you looking for a new challenge for 2013? Have you been inspired by our great British cyclists over the summer? Well, Marie Curie Cancer Care has the event for you!

Between July 18-22, Marie Curie Cancer Care will be holding its very first Cardiff to Dublin Cycle Ride - an awesome challenge for those in the saddle!

Starting from City Hall in Cardiff and cycling between 40 and

70 miles a day, the cyclists will enjoy parts of Wales and Ireland that they may never have seen, including Pembrokeshire National Park and Rosslare Bay, before finishing in the fantastic city of Dublin.

Places on this sponsored cycle challenge are limited, and training is essential to ensure cyclists enjoy as much as possible.

For more information or to register today, visit [www.mariecurie.org.uk/cardiffdublin](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/cardiffdublin) or call 01884 703536, or email [waleswestevents@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:waleswestevents@mariecurie.org.uk).

## National accolade for Vale family service group

THE Vale Family Information Service (FIS) has been recognised for the excellent standard of its work with a National Families First Award.

The Vale is only the sixth local authority out of all 22 authorities in Wales to receive this accolade, which is testament to the hard work of the team who ensure that families

have access to the information they need to be able to make informed decisions about their family life.

To receive a Families First Award, services are required to meet 10 challenging standards.

The Vale's FIS not only met the standards, but now exceed the statutory requirements of the Childcare Act 2006, to provide information and guidance to parents, prospective parents and carers.

Coun Chris Elmore presented the award to the team and commented: "It's an excellent achievement for the FIS Team and the Vale Council to have gained this national award. It's such a vital service for families and people working with families. We are delighted."

**Follow The GEM on Twitter @gem\_news**

## Chambers can make use of free funding consultation

ALUN CAIRNS MP has contacted local chambers of trade across the Vale to encourage members to grasp the opportunity for a free funding consultation with a

leading firm of accountants and business advisers.

The consultation provides an independent and realistic opinion on the business' current financial position and future prospects. The UK-wide PKF scheme is open to businesses of all sizes.

The Vale MP says he wants to support local firms and this scheme ensures that business owners can explore a wide range of funding options.

Mr Cairns explained:

"I think the PKF Funding Solutions scheme is a great way for local businesses to find out what funding solutions may be available to them - maybe because funding is being sought to meet an urgent need or opportunity or even to replace an existing arrangement."

"I'd urge local business owners and traders to contact their local chamber of trade to find out more about the professional advice and support that is available to them."

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A family business with vast experience in the replacement door and worktop market.

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# BARRY FALLS SILENT AND TRIBUTE IS PAID TO THOSE WHO MADE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE



ON Sunday, November 11, the people of Barry gathered at the Cenotaph and paid tribute to the thousands of Servicemen and Servicewomen from the town who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased  
by contacting:

e-mail [ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk)  
telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,  
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.







## High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



# Barry High Street offers Christmas specials – and a dedicated team to help



Nicola and Wendy at Miss Holmes, where you can pick up gifts for the men and women in your life, knowing that it's what they would want, as long as they have popped in first and added it to their in-store 'wish list'.

**LOOKING** for that special festive gift for your friends and family can be a stressful experience.

Yet it doesn't have to be, when Barry High Street contains unique businesses run with a personal service by dedicated staff who pride themselves on being different and imaginative.

Whether you want the latest must-haves from London, locally crafted special gifts or the chance of a cherished memory with your friends or family, there are retailers based on the street who can, and are willing to, help.

For the sweet-smelling members of the family, look no further than **Butterflies**.

Yankee Candles have become a global brand over recent years with their range of candles, incense burners, fragrance diffusers and the like, so get down and see the range on offer.

It's not just adults who will find something to their liking, Ian and Jo cater for all ages –

by **LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS**

with new stock coming in every week to make each visit a discovery of something magnificent.

You will always be welcomed by Sky the dog, who keeps a friendly eye over every entrance and exit in the hope of some fuss and attention.

Boofle bears (both Christmas and regular range) provide something soft and cuddly for little 'uns, while family-orientated photo frames can encapsulate the fondest of memories.

They offer free same-day delivery in Barry, and can deliver as far as Llantwit, Bridgend and Cardiff, also same day, for a small charge.

There is also a 'Christmas Club' – spreading the cost over a period of time to help customers. Put stock away or pay money into an account over the year to use when you want.

Phone Ian on 07875 028825, Jo on 07807 340983, or search for 'Butterflies Barry' on

Facebook for the latest in-store offers and to place orders.

Jo would like to say: "Thanks to my husband and mother (in law) for supporting me following my accident. Without them, Christmas wouldn't have been done. Thank you also to our customers for their support."

Alternatively, you can see what the treasure trove otherwise known as **Miss Holmes** has to offer gift connoisseurs.

They stock premium brands such as Ted Baker as part of a bigger range of men's gifts this year, with Nougat London's range, particularly the men's toiletries, providing a sophisticated touch for the man in your life.

For the ladies, take a gander at the Swarovski crystal compact mirrors, for as owner Nicola explains: "anything that sparkles sells".

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 28**



Kath Pickup – Little Big Shoes.

**Dior**  
**POLICE**  
**DIESEL**  
**TED BAKER**  
**NICOLE FARHI**  
**LIPSY**  
**DOLCE & GABBANA**  
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**The Deli**  
— Food For Thought —  
12 High Street, Barry 01446 735711  
[www.foodforthoughtbarry.co.uk](http://www.foodforthoughtbarry.co.uk)  
@FFTDel on Twitter

We would like to wish all our customers a Happy Christmas

**Christmas at Food for Thought Deli!**  
From a turkey to party foods, even salads... Make your Christmas orders today! You can find our Christmas order forms instore and online at our website  
[www.foodforthoughtbarry.co.uk](http://www.foodforthoughtbarry.co.uk)

**LAST ORDERS SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER**  
We also have a great selection of Christmas products instore to treat your friends or loved ones! If you are stuck on what to get why not buy a £10 Deli voucher.

**Let us put a sparkle into your Christmas!**

**Richard Jones CARPETS**

- Carpet
- Laminates
- Cushion Floor
- Rugs

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**FLOORING TO SUIT EVERY ROOM IN THE HOME**

**CARPETS from £3.99 sq metre (while stocks last)**

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We will be opening 27th, 28th & 29th December – Bookings Taken

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to book or for available times  
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**Speciality Coffees and a Good Selection of Teas.**  
Breakfast Baguettes & Muffins  
Hot Buttered Teacakes,  
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Local artists gallery pictures to purchase  
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**07765 647534**





## High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



Keep up with all the news from High Street and the rest of the Vale in your free, weekly GEM!

### Sanctuary Gift Shop

31 High Street, Barry

Open 9am - 5pm Monday-Saturday

Specialising in local handmade items & FairTrade products.

For a wide range of specialist gifts - jewellery, candles, cushions, cards, DIY craft kits, mirrors and so much more.

A bit of a Pandora's Box - something for everyone!

(Opposite Vic Hopkins Butchers)

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Please find us on Facebook

### Our 2012 Christmas Order Book is Now Open!



93 HIGH STREET

BARRY

☎ 01446 735265

"Call in today, fill out an order form and let us help you make your Christmas extra special."



To download your order form visit

[www.welshbutchers.co.uk](http://www.welshbutchers.co.uk)

## SOMETHING PERSONAL?... THEN LOOK NO FURTHER!

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

Looking for something more personal? Annie Haak jewellery is available: bracelets, charm rings and guardian angel rings, which can be personalised with a message to cherished ones. Worn by celebrities such as Victoria Beckham, Cheryl Cole and Dannii Minogue, these will be a hit with the ladies of all ages.

Sweet smell lovers are welcome here too, with fragrance lamps that purify the air and smell gorgeous a big seller, while WoodWick candles rival Yankee, and crackle like a real fire.

Children can find retro toys (perfect as stocking fillers) and favourites such as The Gruffalo and Octonauts, while a new range of matching purses and scarves from The Old Bag Company form part of the "vintage and retro-inspired gifts that save people going in to town."

Miss Holmes are happy to help out too with their Christmas wishlists. Customers



Mark Osman of Still Images is ready to capture your festive family moments on film.

point out what they'd like and write it down, and then family members and partners can come behind and buy items off the list. Nicola jokes: "It make men's lives easier."

The shop is also launching online this Christmas, with the chance to purchase off a new website going live this week. It can be found at: [www.mis-sholmes.co.uk](http://www.mis-sholmes.co.uk).

An alternative to "the norm" may be some locally crafted gifts for those with Vale pride at heart. Sanctuary offer such gifts described by locals as "a bit of an Alladin's Cave".

Recently celebrating their first birthday, owners Michelle and Gareth craft items on-site, such as personalised plaques

made to order to send a permanent message to somebody close to you.

Welsh-themed ceramics, soaps and bath bombs, wooden/acrylic pens, letter openers, candles, cushions, wall hangings, paper weights, cards, soy wax melts...the list goes on.

Fairtrade products add to the local produce, while there are plenty to keep the youngsters occupied, both in the above and with the shop's DIY craft kits.

There's also bridal gifts too, including silver-plated jewellery, and present ideas can be found on their Facebook page: 'Sanctuary Gift Shop', or by calling the shop on 01446 678187.

What about footwear? Little Big Shoes have moved their shop further

in to High Street opposite Dr Bob's Balloons.

Owner Kath is looking forward to a busy Christmas with a fabulous range of winter boots and party shoes in a range of styles.

They also stock a lovely selection of popular purses, scarves, slippers, handbags and many Christmas gift ideas.

Looking for something a little different? How about the opportunity to record for ever the smile on your children's faces after all the hard work you've put in stockpiling their masses of toys this year?

Still Images provide an opportunity for friends and families to record their cherished moments for all to see.

As owner Mark explains: "Christmas is an ideal time for photos as the memories last forever, whereas flowers or chocolates don't."

Still Images are running various promotions with gift vouchers this year, with a big one coming during the big Christmas light switch

on (November 23), when customers can buy a voucher on the day for a 30-minute photo session and a 7x5 print for £9.99 and then book anytime.

Providing children, family and Boudoir por-

traits, why not give a loved one the chance to shine in front of a camera, rather than watching the celebs do it on TV?

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 29

### O'DONOVANS

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Range of Kitchenware & Cookware, Logs, Coal, Paraffin & Kindling, Electric & Oil Portable Heaters.

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### THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

## HIGH STREET BARRY CHRISTMAS EVENT

FRIDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to participate in the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be Closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

#### Schedule

| Column 1                        | Column 2                                                 | Column 3         |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Friday<br>23rd November<br>2012 | High Street Barry, between Market Street and East Street | 3.00pm to 8.00pm |
| Friday<br>23rd November<br>2012 | Island Road Barry, between Broad Street and Queen Street | 2.00pm to 8.00pm |

Local signed diversions shall be in place. Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 15th day of November 2012

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing  
Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
The Alps, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA



### Homemade Wales

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& Homewares ♥



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### Salon 23 HAIR STUDIO

Specialising in colour  
Julie and staff would like to wish customers a Merry Christmas.  
Christmas hair appointments now being taken.  
GIFT VOUCHERS FOR CHRISTMAS  
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### Chaplins STEAK HOUSE

## Lunch Time Christmas Menu

PARSNIP & APPLE SOUP

With parsnip crisps

SPICY CHILLI WHITEBAIT

With saffron mayonnaise

DUCK & ORANGE PATE

With plum and cranberry chutney

DUO OF MELON

Set in a mulled wine jelly with winter berries

ROAST TURKEY

With pigs in blankets and apricot stuffing and roast gravy

ROAST LOIN OF PORK

With braised red cabbage and orange and cognac sauce

BAKED TROUT

With fennel and shallots with a sweet potato mash

ROAST BEEF

With Yorkshire pudding

TWICE BAKED CHEESE SOUFFLE

With sautéed spinach, watercress and pine nuts

ALL SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES & GOOSE FAT ROAST POTATOES

ORANGE & CINNAMON CREME BRULEE

With an orange shortbread

WHITE CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

With cranberry's and vanilla ice cream

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING

With Brandy Anglaise

TRADITIONAL SHERRY TRIFLE

VANILLA CHEESECAKE

With a pomegranate and cranberry compote

£14.95 per person

THIS MENU IS AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING ONLY. LUNCHTIME ONLY 11.30am til 2.30pm

A £5 DEPOSIT PER PERSON IS REQUIRED ON RESERVING YOUR TABLE

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Check our our website for menus [www.chaplinsrestaurantbarry.webs.com](http://www.chaplinsrestaurantbarry.webs.com)





## High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



ABOVE: Dr Bob's inflatable goodies are a big hit with families year after year – 16 years to be precise, after the shop's recent anniversary.



ABOVE: Jo, Ian and Sky are waiting for you in Butterflies – make sure to make a fuss of Sky on your next visit!

LEFT: Aspirations florists provides a full range of plants to decorate your home with throughout the festive period – and indeed the rest of the year.

## Big switch on to provide 'hours of entertainment'

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

The big switch-on provides hours of entertainment for revellers this year, with fun aimed at all ages and starring some big local talent.

Bro Radio will oversee the night, with local primary schools High Street and St Baruc providing bilingual songs to warm parents' hearts.

Nicola Peros Ballet will provide some visual entertainment, while Rising Sun Kyokushin will give crowds a taste of the dedication and self control of martial arts.

Superstars will be putting on some of their famed musical theatre productions for

the crowds, while Billboard will give a taste of their latest pantomime blockbuster.

Then comes the main event, with Disney superstars Micky and Minnie Mouse, and Father Christmas himself taking time out of their busy festive schedules

to flick the switch and light up the streets.

There will be fun and games throughout provided by Simon Sparkles, And Dr Bob's Balloons, bouncy castles, fairground attractions, the V-POD bus and face painters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

Christmas has now arrived at...

MISS HOLMES

## THE SHOP FOR EXCLUSIVE GIFTS

- **Woodwick Candles**  
Soy based, crackles as it burns.
- **Annie Haak Jewellery**  
As worn by celebrities
- **Ted Baker Mens' quality gifts**
- **NGT by Nougat of London** for men
- **Ted Baker**  
Ladies journals and touch pens
- **Powder Autumn/Winter Collection**  
Scarves
- **Snoozies** Cosy little foot coverings
- **Wridleys House of Novelties**  
Retro toys, stocking fillers
- **Cath Kidston**  
Make your own decorations, cards and diaries for 2013
- **Roberts Radios** Official stockists
- **Gruffalo & Octonauts**  
Licenced children's gifts
- **Orla Kiely** Home & Garden Gifts

**11 High Street, Barry**

**Tel. 01446 732456**

**www.missholmes.co.uk**

**Open Lunchtimes & Evenings**  
**Tuesday - Sunday**

**izmir**  
Turkish & Greek Restaurant

**Christmas Parties**  
5 Courses £19.90 per person

**Christmas Day Lunch**  
5 Courses £44.50 - Children Half Price

**New Year's Eve**  
5 Courses with Entertainment  
£42.50 per person

Belly Dancing,  
Music & Plenty of Fun!

BOOKING ADVISABLE

**19 BROAD STREET, BARRY**  
**01446 700050**

See your  
**November 29 GEM** for  
all the  
coverage of  
the **High Street lights switch-on!**

*Still images*  
11 High Street, Barry, Vale Of Glamorgan  
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**£85 Off**  
Any Photo Product After  
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Something Special For  
The One You Love!  
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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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SENIOR CITIZENS  
CHILDREN • MEN

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm  
Saturday 8.30 - 5.00pm

Antony, Matt and Jack wish all  
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**27 High Street, Barry**

**The Backhouse Barbers**  
Est. 1963 By H. Asprou

**NOW OPEN**  
4th Generation Family Barber  
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Open Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9am - 5.30pm  
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**ISLAND ROAD, BARRY**  
**All Welcome - Just Call In!**

**Sylvesters Diner**  
Eat in or take out

**We will be open for the Christmas Lights, Friday 23rd November 'til late, serving hot meals and snacks**

Plus a stall on High Street for Curries & Chilli

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NOW OPEN AT  
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A Gift to be Treasured this Christmas  
Antiques, Collectables, Vintage, Retro, Named Furniture & Rugs

We buy and sell at competitive rates  
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offering all aspects of Hairdressing

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**  
Full head colour or foils & cut and blow dry  
**only £30 with this advert**  
Early booking essential  
A Merry Christmas to all our customers

**106 High Street, Barry CF62 7DS**  
**Tel. 01446 737322**





## High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



ABOVE: Diane and Sarah of Cafe Cwtch, with some of the local artists' work on display behind them.



ABOVE: The team – and one happy customer – at JAKS unisex Hairsalon.

## Don't shop till you drop – get some warm food and drink!

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Then, it's time to move inside to **Habana's** and warm your feet to the rocking sound of local band Back to November – featured quite frequently in the pages of The GEM recently.

The fire brigade and PCSO Sam Dance, among other officers, will also be around to ensure all runs smooth-

ly.

**Dr Bob's Balloons** won't just be available for one night only, though. Shoppers can pick up inflatable delights in the run up to the big event to decorate the home with something a little different.

Table decorations such as balloon Christmas trees provide dinner table talking points, while there is

plenty of stock for New Year's Eve, with party poppers, balloon drops and much more available.

There are personalised balloons for kids such as messages from Father Christmas, or specials like Christmas decorations and topiaries fit for any home.

Once all the shopping has got to your feet (and stomachs) there are plenty of great

places to catch a bite to eat or drink on High Street and the surrounding area.

Sarah, owner of **Cwtch Coffee and Gallery**, has brightened up her venue by selling a range of local artists' framed pictures.

Kath Williams – one such artist – uses pastels and takes commissions to order. Just take in your favourite photograph and Kath will produce a work of art. The ideal gift, or just for you!

Call in at the cafe for breakfast, specialist coffees and select teas, cakes, paninis, sandwiches and daily specials – not forgetting that all-important mince

pie at Christmas!

Alternatively, sample the great tradition of a British pub at **The Borough Arms**. The venue is available to hire for Christmas parties (resident DJ and karaoke available), or if you want to just pop in and have a quick catch-up with friends.

Them Deadbeats perform weekly gigs on a Thursday night from 8.30pm 'til late, and there are regular drink promotions and a Christmas raffle to keep punters entertained.

There are also big plans afoot for New Year's Eve – a gangsters and molls night.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 31**



ABOVE: Vic Hopkins' new-look team are ready to provide families with their ideal meat choice for the big Christmas Day meal.

## UNISEX HAIR SALON

**Jaks**

Monday to Saturday  
9am - 5.30pm  
Closed Tuesdays

Thursday Late Night  
until 7pm

## NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

The New Metallic Collection  
GHDs from only £135  
and Tigi & Matrix  
Christmas Packs

We are stockists of Moroccan Oil and offer  
Crazy Angel Spray Tanning for only £20

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Telephone 01446 742333

## The Borough Arms

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

**Venue available for Christmas Parties**

We can cater for your every need  
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## High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



### Shahi Noor proves a popular venue for lovers of Asian cuisine – DINING REVIEW



**HIGH STREET** in Barry has a thriving dining trade in the evenings and one stand-out restaurant is Shahi Noor.

It is owned by the Rahman family and has served exotic Asian dishes for 23 years.

In the lead-up to Christmas an affordable restaurant meal is a tempting option for couples or families who want to save themselves the time and energy of cooking in the evening.

My wife chose a mixed starter which complemented pieces of tandoori

chicken, sheek kebab and prawns, served on a bed of salad, while I plumped for the tandoori chicken with salad.

The portions were generous and we enjoyed the rich flavours typical of Asian cuisine – a good start to our meal.

Among the special dishes on offer was the shahgorana morobba masala, marinated chicked and lamb cooked in yoghurt and a mixture of mild spices and served in a rich, mildly spiced sauce.

Another on the 'specials' list was a balti masala which is marinat-

ed pieces of chicken or lamb tikka cooked with tomatoes, served in a thick masala sauce.

The 13 speciality dishes range from £6.95 to £11.95, but there is also a vast array of other courses such as Bengal baltis, tandoori dishes, biryani and seafood – something for all tastes.

For the main course my wife selected one of the speciality house dishes – a Bangladeshi dish, a tandoori shahgorana dinner.

It's a dry dish, without a sauce, with large pieces of chicken, lamb and fresh prawns cooked in a clay oven which is stirred and topped with roasted garlic, onions and green peppers.

All this was served with salad and nan bread. My wife enjoyed the variety of flavours and textures, and the meat was succulent, and went well with the side salad. The portion was very generous – and she struggled to finish it.

Hot dishes are not my cup of tea; I prefer milder dishes with subtle flavours.

My choice was a fresh prawn and coriander curry, cooked with garlic. The coriander worked well, complementing the prawns.

It was served with a special fried rice and nan bread. Once more the portion was more than generous.

Our desserts were ice-cream and lassi (a sweet yoghurt drink) and we concluded the meal with Tia Maria and French coffees.

The meal ran out at approximately £35 and proved value for money.

The service provided by Salim and Makhon Rahman was very friendly and attentive.

On the evening we went, Shahi Noor proved a popular venue with a constant stream of customers coming through the door – people appreciate good quality Asian cooking in the Vale.

TIM CHAPMAN

### ALL YOU NEED FOR CHRISTMAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30  
For £60 a head or £100 for a couple, tickets include all drinks, cocktails and a buffet, three hours' casino a live singer and disco until 2am.

Call 01446 737060 for more details.

Izmir Turkish and Greek restaurant has recently opened on Broad Street. Izmir have an impressive line-up ready for Christmas with a great evening party menu, open Christmas day and a fun night planned for New Year's Eve. They are also open lunchtimes.

Enjoy a superb dining experience with lively entertainment of a belly dancer and Greek music.

With more than 25 years' experience, Izmir look forward to serving you. Call 01446 700050 to book your party.

For the big meal itself, Vic Hopkins & Son have been serving the people of Barry and The Vale for more than 50 years. With more than 100 years' experience between



ABOVE: Harry Asprou's recently opened Buckhouse Barbers provide a full range of gentleman's haircuts.

them; they know how to help you make the perfect Christmas meal.

They offer a great selection of fresh, free-range, locally produced poultry and meats, so if you want the best this Christmas, don't leave it to chance – trust the experts!

They also have a new team member: Alan, a well-known local butcher who joined them after Chris moved on.

Their famous hot roast baguettes will be available on 'switch on' night and are also available most lunchtimes.



ABOVE: Butterflies offer eclectic festive gifts, and top local service from both the two-legged and four-legged members of staff.



ABOVE: Miss Holmes offers a range of sparkly gifts for both male and female customers, and give you the chance to ensure your loved ones pick up the right one for you!



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2 glasses of wine or 2 small bottles of beer or 2 glasses of Coke.

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## ASH DIEBACK - The key facts GEM readers need to know

WITH ash trees around the UK threatened by a disease that has entered the country (and now Wales) from Europe, The GEM sought advice from a local expert.

Ewart Schofield of ESA Treecare, a tree care professional who works with trees constantly, told GEM readers about the current situation:

Each year, new diseases are found, or old ones seem to be more

virulent, and the latest is the Ash tree disease, Chalara fraxinea. It causes leaf loss, the crown to dieback and it can kill the tree.

As nearly five per cent of our woodland coverage is made up of Ash trees, there is a sense of urgency about knowing more about this disease.

You only have to walk down one of the country lanes to be overshadowed by the amazing Ash trees that grow around us, so often unnoticed.

So far after the initial countrywide survey; over 80 sites have been identified, with one being in Camarthen.

I would recommend any newly planted tree that has the disease should be removed and a disease free one planted.

Useful information including what the disease looks like, can be found on [www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara).

Government scientists at Defra set out the most up-to-date understanding of the disease. Their assessment agreed with the earlier pest risk analysis, carried out in August, and concluded that:

- The spores are unlikely to survive for more than a few days.

- Spore dispersal on the wind is possible from mainland Europe.

- Trees need a high dose of spores to become infected.

- The spores are produced from infected dead leaves during the months of June to September.

- There is a low probability of dispersal on clothing or animals and birds.

- The disease will attack any species of ash.

- The disease becomes obvious in trees within months

rather than years.

- Wood products would not spread the disease if treated properly.

- Once infected, trees can't be cured, but not all trees die of the infection, and some are likely to have genetic resistance.

There are many diseases that affect trees and can cause their decline, so the sight of a dying ash tree may not be this disease, but if in doubt I would recommend contacting a qualified arboriculturalist or the Forestry Commission (be wary of door knockers telling you your Ash tree is diseased and it needs to be removed !)

## XFOR issues 53 fines

LOCAL authority support company XFOR issued 53 £75 Fixed Penalty Notices in the Vale during the week commencing November 5.

XFOR have been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering incidents in the Vale.

## PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT - Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, Monday, November 26 at 6.30pm.

COURT PACT - Ilminster Scout Hall on Thursday, November 29 at 6pm.

SULLY PACT - on November 15, due to unforeseen circumstances,

this meeting has been postponed. A new date will be advertised soon.

LLANDOW/ EWENNY PACT - Ewenny Village Hall on Wednesday November 21 at 7pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT - Fairfield Primary School, Dryden Road, Penarth on Thursday, November 29 at 6pm.



Cardiff and Vale College  
Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro

## November Open Week for Year 11s

It's Cardiff and Vale College's open week for year 11s. Get a step ahead and decide what you want to do after your GCSEs. Open events now include talks every 30 minutes, tours of facilities and demonstrations from subjects you are interested in.

### Study in Cardiff

Tuesday 20th November  
4pm - 7.30pm

### Study in the Vale

Wednesday 21st November  
4pm - 7.30pm



View our website for more information on which sites to visit, depending on the course you are interested in.

[www.cavc.ac.uk/openweeks](http://www.cavc.ac.uk/openweeks)

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Cardiff and Vale College  
Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro

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Mae h'n wythnos agored Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro ar gyfer blwyddyn 11. Coel cam ar y blaen apenderfynwch beth rydych chi ei wneud ar ôl eich TGAU. Mae digwyddiadau agored bellach yn cynnwys sgynsiau bob 30 munud, teithiau o gwmpas ein cyfleusterau ac arddangosiadau o bynciau mae gennych ddi-ddordeb yndda.

### Astudio yng Nghaerdydd

Dydd Mawrth 20fed o Dachwedd  
4yh - 7.30yh

### Astudio yn y Fro

Dydd Mercher 21ain o Dachwedd  
4yh - 7.30yh



Ewch i'n gwefan i gael rhagor o wybodaeth ar ba safleoedd i ymweld â nhw, yn dibynnu ar y cwrs sydd o ddiddordeb i chi.

[www.cavc.ac.uk/wythnosagored](http://www.cavc.ac.uk/wythnosagored)

Ffôn: 030 30 30 10 10





# Emotional moments in pupils' service of Remembrance



Some of the Service personnel past and present with pupils from Wick and Marcross School.

FOUR generations joined together on Thursday, November 8 at Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School to remember those who have fallen in the two world wars and other conflicts, and to pray for those currently affected by conflicts around the world.

Royal Air Force personnel at Ministry of Defence St Athan have forged a bond with Wick and Marcross School, having been invited to attend their Service of Remembrance for a number of years. This year, Flight Lieutenant Nick Carter represented the Station Commander at the service, which was written and presented by the children.

Flight Lieutenant Carter said: "I was humbled by the way the children conducted their service. There is no doubt that they have a full and clear understanding of the sacrifices that have been made, not only during the Great War, but also in more recent and current conflicts."

Headteacher, Mrs Ceri Thomas added: "Wick and Marcross School has always been attended by children from military families and backgrounds, which means that the children here are more familiar with what it is like when fathers or mothers have to go away, and for families at home to have to support each other."

This was reflected in the very moving and thought provoking service that the children had put together, which covered many of the emotional aspects of war, and included two letters



Morwenna, Mr Phil Berry, Wing Commander Paul Regan and Gwynn.

called: 'Morwenna's Letters to Jonny'; one letter from his mother explaining why Jonny had to leave London and be evacuated to the country where he would be safe until they could be together again, and another from his father on the front line, telling Jonny that he loved him and to take care until he could be with him again.

These emotive letters were in fact written by Morwenna, a year-6 pupil at the school, and were read by her and another year-6 pupil, Gwynn.

The letters provided a haunting recollection of times gone past but also an insight into how it is now for some children attending a country school while their parents fight overseas to ensure that they remain safe and free.

The following morning it was the turn of the Royal Air Force to host the school. This is the second year that the children have been able to join the members of the Normandy Veterans Association South Wales Branch and Ministry of Defence St Athan personnel for their Service of Remembrance at the



Mrs Ceri Thomas with some of the children talking to members of the Normandy Veterans.

Multi Faith Centre on the unit.

During the service, a number of stars were placed in front of the altar by the children, each one bearing the name of a service person who had given their life during the past year.

Wreaths were laid by the Station Commander, Wing Commander Paul Regan, and the president of the Normandy Veterans, Mr Phil Berry. Once again the children played a full part in the service by reading poems and letters.

Padre Lance Clark, on behalf of the Ministry of Defence St Athan

Chaplaincy, said: "It was a privilege to be joined by members of the Normandy Veterans Association South Wales Branch and children from Wick and Marcross School.

"To have such an inclusive service serves as a stark reminder that war is still with us and not a thing of the past."

Military personnel from Ministry of Defence St Athan represented the three Armed Forces at numerous services

of Remembrance throughout south Wales on Sunday, November 11.

## Have a Merry Barry Christmas!

FREE events for all the family!

### LIGHT UP THE SQUARE

KING SQUARE, BARRY, FRI 30 NOVEMBER, 3PM - 6.30PM

Enjoy live music from 'All That Jazz', 'Oyster Opera' and 'Yuletide Rocks' along with the Christmas street entertainers. Some of the Vale of Glamorgan's London 2012 Olympic torchbearers will be turning on the town's Christmas Lights on the Square and on the Christmas tree at 6pm. The evening will finish with 'NU Cracker', a festive performance from 'Matter Control Dance' - a modern remake of the traditional ballet story.

### LET IT SNOW!

CENTRAL PARK, BARRY, SAT 15 DECEMBER, 10AM - 3PM

For one day only, Santa and his reindeer will be coming to town. The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, ice sculptures and live music. The day will also feature 'The Christmas Storytelling Tent', a beautiful festive puppet show especially suitable for younger children.

For further details please call 01446 704737 or visit [WWW.VISITTHEVALE.COM](http://WWW.VISITTHEVALE.COM), while you can also keep up to date with local events news by following @visitthevale on Twitter!

VALE of GLAMORGAN  
BRO MORGANNWG







# MP denies there are more viable options than Severn Barrage for tidal harnessing

**FRIENDS of the Earth are calling for an alternative to the proposals of a Severn Barrage between Lavernock Point and Somerset, saying that there are environmentally friendlier options – yet a top MP backing the project has rebutted their claims.**

Friends of the Earth Cymru (FOEC) claim that a barrage across the Severn is the wrong option for the economy, for clean energy, and for the environment, while local group Friends of the Earth Barry (FOEB) has criticised the enquiry on Severn tidal power for, it believes, ignoring downstream environmental damage.

Gareth Clubb, director of Friends of the Earth Cymru, said: "After decades of trying, there has yet to be a realistic proposal for a barrage across the Severn that doesn't come with a massive price tag and have devastating environmental impact."

"If just a fraction of the investment needed to build a concrete barrage was spent on energy efficiency, thousands more jobs would be created. And there are better solutions for capturing the tidal power of the Severn that would have much less damaging consequences, and could give us green energy far sooner than the 20 years it will take a barrage to generate anything at all."

He explained that an application had been submitted to the plan-

ning inspectorate to build a tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay by Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay Ltd, with a capacity of 250-350MW, which FOEC believe will provide more green energy for less environmental damage.

He added: "Tidal lagoons are much less environmentally damaging. Several breeding grounds would not be impacted (as with the Severn Barrage), and neither would mud flats as bird feeding grounds."

FOEB believe that the Energy and Climate Change Committee set up by the UK Government is not concerned with the best technologies for tidal energy, but biased to the Severn Barrage promoted by Peter Hain MP.

Spokesperson Max Wallis claimed that a third proposal for a 'tidal reef' between Aberthaw and Minehead presents the best tidal power option.

He said: "In my opinion, the Parliamentary Inquiry call for evidence limits consideration to the 'estuary' – ie upstream of the Holm Islands – ignoring impacts downstream in the Bristol channel, including erosion of Bridgewater Bay and decreased currents for downstream marine power generation."

"Peter Hain's 'Hafren Power' scheme differs from the old Cardiff-Weston Barrage in having two-way generation with smaller turbines (four times more). These turbines are said to be less damaging to fish, including protected species, but the scheme still destroys five square kilometres of the estu-

ary's tidal feeding grounds and disrupts shipping.

"The alternative 'tidal reef' from Minehead to Aberthaw was found in 2010 to generate a similar total of power without affecting shipping and the upstream estuary conservation area."

"This gives it priority under the European Habitats Directive. So the inquiry is quite wrong to cut out this alternative."

Peter Hain MP, who is pushing the Hafren Power Severn Barrage proposals, said that he respected the views of the Friends of the Earth Group, but in this instance they were wrong.

He told The GEM: "I have a lot of respect for the Friends of the Earth, and there are few MPs more green than myself, but in a lot of respects they have got this wrong."

Mr Hain explained that tidal lagoons only make a fraction of the power the barrage would, and that you would need scores of them to match it. He also said Swansea Bay is too shallow a location for such a project as they need deeper tides, and it would be too intrusive on shipping.

He added: "Hafren Power made it clear to Friends of the Earth and other environmental groups that it will fund up to 50 sq km of new

habitat for wildlife, and this is built in to the costings."

The former Shadow Secretary of State for Wales also cited the huge flooding defence the barrage would provide as a necessity. He said that up to 90,000 properties would receive extra protection – many on the south Wales coast, and that the business and leisure industries would receive a boost from the giant lake created upstream of the barrage.

Mr Hain concluded: "There are so many pluses, including tens of thousands of jobs created."

"No matter what the merits of the other schemes, none match the potential of the Severn Barrage."



ABOVE: An artist's impression of the what the Hafren Power Severn Barrage could look like.

## FRESHSTART CLASSES

**A NEW programme of Freshstart classes began yesterday (November 14) at the Y Centre, 25 John Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3AP – and will continue on a weekly basis.**

From 10am-11am – 'Parent and Child Get Creative Together' (£4); 11am-12 noon – 'Create your Dreams Awake' – adult class (£5); 12.30pm-2pm – 'Bring Out the Artist in You' – adult class (£8).

Call in at the centre to find out more.

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## 'Changing Lives' event at Vale church

**LAST month, thanks to an article in The GEM, a number of people came along to hear the story of Mark Peers.**

He had been a pub owner involved in an explosion that left him in a coma for five weeks.

He was on the road to recovery when he was arrested and jailed – twice.

Remarkable events

then took place that have completely transformed his life.

On Sunday, November 18 at 5pm, at the Duke of Wellington in Cowbridge, The Vale Church will hear from a married couple Christine and Ken.

They will relate how they were taken to the depths of despair through ill health and limited finances to a complete and unexpected turnaround!

Dale Gooding

## Bridge results

**RESULTS for Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian) for Tuesday, November 6:**

First, Glenda Roberts and Amy Owen, 62.50 per cent; Second, Helen Ruttlely and Mike Ruttlely, 62.08; Third, Sylvia Phillips and Pam Higgs, 60.42; Fourth=, Ann Miller and Judy Springett, 55.00; Fourth=, Debbie Rosevear and Mearl Owen, 55.00.

ME



# ART NOT JUST FOR ART'S SAKE – BUT TO OPEN UP NEW FRONTIERS AND INSIGHTS



**DURING the autumn term, students from UWIC have been taking part in the artists in residence programme at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School, Barry**

They worked with the year-5 pupils to develop their creative skills when working with sounds and the children were encouraged to envisage 'the shape of sound'.

Miss Murray's group created a paper mache globe, then they listened to the sounds of 'hello' in other languages and translated them into giant 3D speech bubbles.

They also made models showing

their ideas of what sounds may look like. Miss Hamrouge's group used their sewing skills to create self-portrait collages in fabric, capturing their facial expressions while making sounds.

The children's work will be part of an exhibition at the college in January.

Year-5 teacher, Miss Saunders, said that the children had thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to explore new creative ideas while strengthening community links and enhancing their global citizenship and personal and social development.

NM



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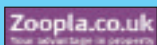
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**DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY**  
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**TENNYNSON ROAD, BARRY**  
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**GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY**  
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**CLEDWEN CLOSE, BARRY**  
Three bedroomed semi detached. Living/dining room, sitting room (converted garage), WC cloakroom, utility room, cul de sac position. Driveway. No chain.  
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**BROAD STREET, BARRY**  
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Widow of the late Mog Thomas, following a prolonged illness, passed away peacefully at Barry Hospital on 7th November.

Sadly missed by son Morgan, daughter-in-law Kay, grandchildren Rhian and husband Richard, Rhydian and wife Luschie and husband Martin and great grandchildren Morgan, Noah and Charlie.

Funeral service at Salem Baptist Chapel at 1.45pm on Friday, 23rd November followed by cremation at Barry Crematorium for close family only.

No flowers please, but the family wish to express their sincerest gratitude to all the District Nurses and staff at Barry Hospital for their care - in lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate if donations could be made to the Neal and Ken Ward at Barry Hospital.

**LANE****Phyllis Mary**

Susan and the family of the late Phyllis would like to thank all who attended her funeral and for the messages of sympathy and floral tributes. We would also like to thank Reverend John James and a special thank you to Lyndsay Ellis of the Vale Funeral Service for the dignity shown to mum and to us at this very sad time.

**TUDGE****Clive**

Margaret, David, Jackie and the family wish to thank everyone who attended Clive's funeral service, and also sent beautiful messages of sympathy.

Special thanks go to friends and neighbours, staff and members of Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, Mrs Daphne Townsend for her comforting service, and also to the staff at W A Brown & Son for their professionalism.

**JONES****Wendy Nicola**

(18.06.69 - 08.11.12)

The precious daughter of Sue and the late Arthur Jones fell peacefully asleep at her home surrounded by her loving family following a determined battle with illness for three years.

Cherished sister of Vivienne, Dawn and Angela, soul mate and partner of Jenni and mother of Ruben.

**LILY BUCKLAND**

(07.06.1924 - 05.11.2012)

Lily passed away at home after a long and happy life. Her family would like to thank her many friends and neighbours for their love and support for Lily throughout her illness. Also, thanks to the Marie Curie Nurses, Doctors and Nurses.

The funeral took place at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, 14th November. Donations in lieu, if desired, to the PDFA or Age Concern Llantwit Major c/o Penybont Funeral Services, Meadow Street, Bridgend, CF31 1HE.

**LLEWELLYN****Lyn**

Suddenly on November 5 at Brocasle Manor Care Home, Bridgend, Lyn aged 90 years, formerly of Cowbridge. Beloved husband of the late Eironwy, much loved father of Michaela, Sara and the late Timothy and Michael, loving grandfather of Alexander. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon.

Funeral Monday November 19, service 2pm at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, followed by interment in Cowbridge Cemetery.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Stroke Association c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

**SANDERS****Margery**

Beloved wife of the late Windsor Sanders, died peacefully at Barry Hospital on 5th November aged 90.

Funeral to take place at Barry Crematorium at 11.15am on Tuesday, 20th November.

Family flowers only please, donations to the British Heart Foundation may be sent via Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, 01446 421212.

**Birthdays****Happy 90th****Birthday****RUBY**

on November 19th

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## Public Notices

### Notice of Pre-Application Event

Forthcoming planning application by Renishaw plc for land south of junction 34, M4 motorway (formerly the Bosch Plant, Miskin).

Proposals for Strategic Employment Site, with B1 (business), B2 (general industrial) B8 (storage & distribution) and ancillary uses.

An Outline Planning Application will be made to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The public are invited to visit the information events which will be held at:

**PENDOYLAN WAR MEMORIAL HALL,  
 PENDOYLAN, SATURDAY 24th  
 NOVEMBER 2012: 1pm - 4:30pm**

AND

**PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
 PONTYCLUN - SATURDAY 1ST  
 DECEMBER 2012: 1:30pm - 5pm**

MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT TEAM WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

For further information please contact Joanne Russell, Barton Willmore 0121 711 5154  
[joanne.russell@bartonwillmore.co.uk](mailto:joanne.russell@bartonwillmore.co.uk)

## Articles For Sale

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# Barry 'pioneer' honoured in Care Awards

A SOCIAL care expert from Barry has been honoured for her pioneering training methods.

Amy Curtis won a bronze at the prestigious Wales Care Awards, the 'Oscars' of the social care sector.

She was especially thrilled that she's nominated not by her own company but by other providers.

"That makes me really proud," declared 34-year-old Amy.

"My managers are also pleased that we have such good links with other professionals."

Amy was among the finalists at the 10th anniversary Wales Care Awards - organised in association with Care Forum Wales - at Cardiff City Hall.

The event is designed to improve awareness of the contribution made by employees who devote their lives to the care sector and to reward their efforts.

Her category was Workforce Development, and the award was sponsored by Educ8 Ltd.

Amy is a centre manager for work-based



ABOVE: Amy Curtis

assessments in health and social care, employed by Cardiff and Vale College.

She has 20 staff and more than 200 learners seeking diplomas, whereas when she started four years ago there was just a handful of staff and 30 learners.

She worked in a residential home for 11 years helping children with severe behavioural problems and learning difficulties, which proved to be invaluable experience.

She moved to the centre four years ago and took up her current role a year and a half ago.

Colleagues maintain she's transformed the delivery of NVQs and now QCF qualifications in the Vale.

She was nominated by Keri Llewellyn, Barry-based director of Domiciliary Care Agency for All Care (South Wales) Ltd.

Keri said: "Since taking over this position Amy has worked tirelessly to improve the workforce qualifications and standard of care provided in the Vale."

"She is committed to raising the profile of health and social care. Care workers are made to feel valued and observations are used not only to provide evidence for an award or diploma but to give companies feedback on their staff, the standard of support provided and any problems identified."

Winners were presented with their awards by the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Gwenda Thomas. BBC newsreader Lucy Owen was compere with entertainment this year by mezzo-soprano Sioned Terry.

# Penarth Book Festival adds another chapter and verse to Vale events



Narrator John Sparkes was at the Penarth Book Festival to read some popular Peppa Pig stories.

**PENARTH'S first ever book festival was held on November 1 at All Saints Church Hall, where youngsters were able to hear stories about their favourite characters.**

Young fans of Peppa Pig were tickled pink when the TV character trotted into Penarth when the show's narrator, John Sparkes, was on hand to read a few stories, before Peppa and her brother George joined them all for some photographs.

Adding another chapter to a year that has been packed full of popular events in the Vale, the Penarth Book Festival was a week-long treat for literature fans of all ages. Other events included author visits, talks, readings and signings.

Anne Hallett, organiser, from the Windsor Bookshop in Penarth, said: "We are really pleased with how the first festival went, and would like to thank all those who supported us by

attending the sessions. We are certainly planning to build on the success of this year's event and will soon begin planning for next year!"

Coun Lis Burnett spoke about the busy festive period: "Before the year is out we will also see the Penarth Christmas Festival, Barry's first ever Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church on Holton Road, and the spectacle of hundreds of Santas at Barry Island for the inaugural 'Jingle Bell Jog' in mid-December."

"It is an exciting time for events in the Vale, and 2012 has shown that we can host large scale events and use a combination of creativity and innovation to develop events that have the potential to flourish, appealing to both the local community and attracting visitors from further afield."

To find out about the latest events in the Vale, visit:  
[www.visitthevale.com](http://www.visitthevale.com), or follow:  
[@visitthevale](https://twitter.com/visitthevale) on Twitter.

# Cowbridge CC celebrate end of the season

**COWBRIDGE Cricket Club held their annual dinner at the athletic club on November 9.**

It was hugely enjoyable and there was a magnificent trio of speakers. M.J.K Smith, former England cricket captain, was a fountain of crickering anecdotes including stories about Sir Len Hutton, Freddie Truman, Brian Statham, Frank Tyson etc, which gave an interesting insight to the international game.

These names will be familiar to older readers of the GEM and the author remembers seeing Tyson bowl at Lords in the 50s. According to M.J.K he was the fastest bowler he has ever seen, including Shoaib Akhtar, who has turned in deliveries of over 100 mph. Mike Wallace the Glamorgan captain gave an account of some contemporary players, among whom Marcus Trescothick came out as the gentleman we recognise.

His Honour Judge Paul Thomas Q.C. managed to connect the law and cricket and even drew in Bosnia as a source of improved kit.



M.J.K Smith

The dinner is a vital part of the club's year and an important fundraising occasion. Thanks are due to everyone who participated in its organisation but should go particularly to Graham Bishop.

Cricket is going through a difficult phase nationally with a reduction in schools supporting the sport and a dearth of youngsters entering the game. A significant number of clubs have closed.

Cowbridge Cricket Club on the contrary continues to run three sides not least because of the immense efforts of those responsible for junior cricket which provides a deep reservoir of talent as the

youngsters mature.

To keep that support intact the club needs more input from both parents and those mature individuals who say "I used to play and would not mind a game sometime".

Just go onto the club website, [www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk](http://www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk), if you want to know more.

The following awards were made:

The "H" Trophy - 1st XI Player of the Year - Tom Warner; The "JSW Williams" Salver - 2nd XI Player of the Year - Chris Ross; The "RH Webb" Salver - 3rd XI Player of the Year - Michael Hordley; The "CH Adams" Shield - Young Player of the Year - Matt Keating; The "Trustmark" Trophy - Services Off the Field - Tim Williams; The "Ben Wright" Trophy - For Club, County & Beyond - Laurie Thomas; The "Peter Finucane Catch-it" Trophy - Most Catches in the Season - Collin White. DW

# CELEBRATING THE WOMEN OF BARRY

**IN celebration of International Women's Day 2013, women from Barry who have made a significant contribution to public life are being recognised with a 'Barry Women's Trail'.**

The trail will include a

map identifying significant places and telling a little about the lives of these inspirational women.

Bev Noon, operational manager for corporate policy and communications at the Vale Council, said: "There have been some amazing women in Barry over the years, and we need to celebrate their

achievements. All too often, women's contributions are forgotten or are underplayed.

"As well as recognising the individual women, the trail will provide a very interesting urban walk. We hope that both visitors and residents will take advantage of the health-promoting advantages of walking, as well as using local shops and cafes.

"If the trail proves to be successful, we'll be looking at similar projects in other towns in the Vale."

If any GEM reader would like to suggest a woman to be included in the trail, the criteria is: they must have died; must have a strong link to Barry and have made a real impact on public life, in either women's rights, art and culture, sport, medicine, politics, journalism, charitable work, or public service.

Bev Noon added: "We already have a growing list, including Grace Williams, Margaret Lindsay Williams, Dorothy Rees and Ellen Evans. We'd like to hear about other notable women from Barry who deserve recognition."

Send details to [banon@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:banon@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

# LOCAL LEISURE CENTRE CHARGES

**I WRITE in response to former Vale councillor Ernest's recent letter (The GEM, November 1) in which he has seen it necessary to lobby the new leisure centre operator Parkwood, after a constituent was charged £9 for a 45-minute game of tennis at a local leisure centre, and refers to 'exorbitant new rates'.**

He claims that following his intervention, "The charges have now been reduced to a competitive level."

Perhaps he may need reminding that a resident from Sully, Mr Colin Pickard, recently wrote to the local press, with a

similar complaint about overcharging, which the councillor shrugged off as "irresponsible information", and then went on to publicly state: "There will be no change to the current charges on the change-over, other than a modest adjustment for inflation."

As Mr Ernest was the cabinet member responsible for introducing the idea of privatising the leisure centres in the first place, why did he not, at the time, seek assurances from the proposed new operator that such "exorbitant new rates" would not occur, and that the new prices would indeed be "competitive"; then perhaps there wouldn't have been a need for such an appraisal. Jonathan Osborne, Barry.



# Pontyclun celebrate their anniversary in style with sponsorship

**JUNIOR** teams at Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club have been given a major sponsorship boost by local housing developer Lovell in the club's 125th anniversary year.

The company has provided sponsorship to help kit out the club's 10 junior sides with special anniversary team shirts.

The rugby club's sponsorship manager, Colin Williams, commented:

"We're extremely grateful for this generous help from Lovell. We run a total of 14 teams so we have a lot of kit to buy and our costs are high.

"Without this kind of support, the club would find it difficult to provide for young players, especially in the current economic climate."

Founded in 1887, the club plays an important part in the community, giving both boys and girls of all abilities the chance to get involved in rugby, as well as running adult men's and ladies' sides.



Lovell community liaison officer Bernadette Vickery with young players from Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club wearing their new shirts.

Lovell community liaison officer Bernadette Vickery said: "The rugby club is a real focus for the community and a great way for youngsters to keep fit, have fun and develop skills, such as experience of working as a team."

"We wish all the sides the very best of luck and hope the young players enjoy wearing the new shirts."

## A last-gasp draw for the under-9s

**BRIDGEND** Sports were Cowbridge under-9s' opponents on Remembrance Day, and both sides observed a minute's silence at Newbridge Fields.

The first quarter was a tight affair as Bridgend Sports took a 2-1 lead. Cowbridge's only try came from Finlay Brace, although Rhydian Williams, Ben Hardy, Ruben Davies and Will Ryan worked hard in defence.

Quarter 2 went in similar fashion with Bridgend Sports scoring a brace of tries and Cowbridge responding with a Tom Brennan try.

Bridgend Sports were a much bigger side in this quarter but Cowbridge competed well with Harry Treharne, Finlay Sullivan, Ifor Rees, Sam Payne and Will Ryan all doing well.

With Cowbridge 4-2 down greater effort and application were needed, particularly with first up tackles, and the side responded in quarter 3 with a much-improved performance.

On the heavy pitch Cowbridge started to produce a much quicker offloading game which produced four tries from Akka Guwy, Steffan Evans and two from Ruben Davies.

However, Bridgend Sports scored three tries themselves leaving the score 7-6 in the home side's favour.

With everything to play for in quarter 4 Cowbridge again put in a better performance to ensure the game ended in nailbiting fashion.

The quarter saw both sides exchange try for try with fine efforts for Cowbridge coming from Rhydian Williams, Finlay Sullivan and Lewys Robins.

With the score 10-9 to Bridgend Sports the last play of the game saw Ruben Davies score an excellent try to secure a well-deserved draw for Cowbridge.

Cowbridge, as usual, scored some great tries and did well to stay in the game but again missed too many first up tackles and will need to improve in this area of the game as the season progresses.

**Squad:** Harry Treharne, Ruben Davies, Will Ryan, Steffan Evans, Ethan Francis, Lewys Robins, Iolo Davies, Tom Collingbridge, Archie Lloyd, Finlay Brace, Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, Ollie Jones, Akka Guwy, Rhydian Williams, Sam Payne, Ben Hardy, Finlay Sullivan, Ifor Rees, Rhys Pritchard and Luke Treadwell.

MF

## Castle prevail in their Cup encounter

**AFTER** a hard-fought game against a very strong Borough Arms team, the Castle prevailed in soggy conditions.

The Castle took the early lead in which Rhys Palmer set up Kyle Caton. It stayed 1-0 for most of the half until a wonder strike from the Borough brought it back level.

The Castle started the second half with a quick, well-worked goal.

Excellent work from Caine Wells, who made a strong tackle, saw him take on a number of players before offloading it to Jake Oaten, which set up Caton's

second goal of the game. Oaten then bagged his 12th goal of the season, which brought the score to 3-1.

The Borough worked hard to regain another goal, which caught the Castle defence off guard once again, and brought the scoreline to 3-2, which is how the game finished.

The Castle FC now go onto the semi-finals of the Barry Cup. The Castle FC would like to thank the Borough for a good game of football and wish them all the best in their season; also a big thank you to Jason Parsons for his sponsorship and the Castle for their hospitality.

SO

## Evan's winner

**THE** Evan Williams-trained Barrakilla, partned by stable jockey Paul Moloney, landed the ABF Soldiers Charity Novices Hurdle at Market Rasen on Sunday to give

Williams an across the card double as 20 minutes or so later his Bonoman was successful at Ffos Las.

Barrakilla, a five-year-old by Milan, is according to his shrewd trainer, expected to make "a smashing chaser" when he graduates to the bigger obstacles.

Barrakilla, a 2-1 chance, won by two-and-three-quarter lengths from 20-1 outsider Timesishard.

BRIAN LEE

## BOWLS AGM

**L L A N T W I T** Major Bowls Club are holding their combined ladies and gents AGM on Thursday, November 22 at 7pm in the bowls pavilion - all members are asked to attend as an amendment to the constitution has to be voted on.

NY

## Harvey reigns in the rain!

**TOM** Harvey proved that when it comes to wet weather prowess, nobody can hold a candle to him in British karting's Junior Rotax class, as the talented young south Wales speed demon scythed his way majestically through the spray to the top step of the podium in the prestigious end-of-season Continental Cup.

Having to carefully manage slick tyres on a surface characterised by sporadic wet patches in his opening heat race, Harvey wasted little time in slicing his way through from sixth position into the lead in his KR-Sport kart, before proceeding to pull away from the lead and opened up a small gap through the



Tom Harvey shows off the spoils of victory. Picture courtesy of Chris Walker/www.kartpix.net

He would begin heat two, however, from right the way down at the other end of the grid in 25th.

Tom said: "My form in the heats gave me a lot of confidence going into the final, especially as it was fully wet by then and during practice in the rain on Saturday, we had been quickest."

"I got away into the lead and opened up a small gap through the

first few corners, and after that, I just focussed on keeping everything clean and consistent and hitting all the apexes.

"Once I had established a large enough margin over the drivers behind, I eased back a little to ensure I didn't do anything stupid."

"I had spent all of practice driving around on my own, so I had no problems concentration-wise. It felt brilliant to

win, and it was a nice big trophy, too!"

With the treacherous conditions truly separating the wheat from the chaff and bringing kart control and wet weather ability to the fore, it was a magnificent performance as Harvey stamped his authority on proceedings in style.

As he builds up towards a British title bid at Junior Rotax level in 2013, he has left his adversaries with a potent calling card.

"I think I showed that I'll be right up there next year from the word 'go'," mused the Vale ace in conclusion.

"The others know now that I'm ready to win," he added.

To keep up-to-date with Tom's latest career news and results, visit: [www.tomharveyracing.com](http://www.tomharveyracing.com).

RA

## COWBRIDGE UNDER-12S IN IMPRESSIVE FORM

**COWBRIDGE** under-12s continued their impressive unbeaten season with a great performance to beat Caerphilly on a glorious Sunday morning in Cowbridge.

The first score of the game came from the pack winning a scrum against the head. Ruben Williams, the powerful No8, picked up from the base of the scrum and went on a blind-side run, overpowering the Caerphilly defence to score in the corner.

The next score came from another scrum. This time it was Cowbridge to put the ball in Ioan Williams, the ever lively scrum half, dummied from the base of the scrum and from the resulting quick clean ball, Evan Thomas (fly half) made a glorious dummy and put in a simple pass to his inside centre Barny Langton-Cryer, who stood off his right to score in the corner. Ioan Williams then offloaded to Lewis Hawke who had a stroll in for the game's third try.

Barty Norton had a great run into the heart of the Caerphilly mid-field, and with simple passing Ed Lewis was put in the clear, but the Caerphilly defence scrambled across to bring him down just short of the line.

It was great support running by Langton-Cryer that meant that

when Lewis offloaded he was on hand to score the game's fourth try.

From the resulting kick-off, Ruben Williams scored and Williams converted, meaning the score was now 27-0.

The tries were now coming fast and furious, and from a great turnover by Ben Jones, who fed Sam Green who, not to be out done by Ruben Williams' length-of-field try, did the same to score under the same posts.

The final try of the

first half came once again from good defensive pressure by the backs. This created a turnover by Iestyn Fenn which Langton-Cryer converted into a try, giving him a first half hat-trick of tries, half-time: Cowbridge 39, Caerphilly 0.

Caerphilly crossed the line to open their scoring in the second half but Ruben Williams responded and then came the try of the game.

From a solid scrum on the halfway line, Ruben

Williams set off on a powerful run, Williams off loaded the ball just at the right time for Ioan Williams, his scrum half, to scamper towards the line. Ioan was just about to be tackled when he also offloaded to Evan Thomas, who had a clear run in - a great try.

Brad Downes scored Cowbridge's 10th of the game, and though Caerphilly scored another, two quick tries from Ruben Williams made the final score 66-10.

GJ

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## Vale Resort's junior golf team is now the toast of all Wales



Callum, Delon, Mathew, Tim, Harrie and Ryan were victorious in Builth Wells at the 2012 Wales Junior Inter-Club Championship.

**THE Vale Resort's junior golf team is celebrating success after winning the 2012 Wales Junior Inter-Club Championship in Builth Wells last week.**

The team, captained by Callum Yorston (17) and made up of Delon Hau (18), Mathew Rees (15), Tim Harry (15), Harrie Llewellyn (15), and Ryan Thomas (18), braved poor weather conditions to take on the best junior teams from across Wales over a tricky course at Builth Wells Golf Club.

A hard-fought stroke play event saw the Vale victorious with a total score of 341, with each member of the team

playing an outstanding game and securing the Vale's reputation as one of the best junior teams in the country.

The team will now go on to compete in the Home Nations Inter-Club Championships in Andalucia, Spain, in March 2013, which will be televised and shown across the world.

Clive Coombs, the Vale Resort's golf operations manager, said: "We are thrilled with the success of our junior team. We have heavily invested in junior golf development over the years and have set up our own golf academy to nurture up and coming talent."

For more information on the junior golf programme, visit: [www.vale-hotel.com/golf](http://www.vale-hotel.com/golf).

CL

## Bombers are now three for three

**BARRY RFC under-8s made the short trip to Penarth on a very crisp but sunny morning.**

After observing an impeccable minute's silence for Remembrance Sunday, the mini Bombers won the toss and decided to start with the ball.

Their impact was immediate when Malachy McIntyre tapped and passed to Morgan Deyes, who made a storming run through the Penarth defensive line to score a fine try.

Further tries from Morgan Dancy and Evan Prosser ensured that Penarth never recovered and Barry ran out winners by five tries to one.

In two further matches, Cian Murphy picked up where he left off the previous week and scored two tries to help Barry record two more wins by score lines of 4-2 and 2-1.

The squad is now starting to reap the rewards of many weeks of hard work and are showing great potential for the future. Well done to you all!

CP

## Imps under-11s' new kit



Cadoxton Imps AFC under-11s are pictured above wearing their new kit. Coaches Richard Harris and Gary Oxley would like to thank Paul Smith and SHS Scaffolding for their generous sponsorship and support.

## CADOXTON IMPS' YEAR-8 TEAM MOTORING ON!

*Pictured are Cadoxton Imps B year-8 team in their new kit, which is kindly sponsored by Mark Barratt of Rim Motors. Manager Alan Smith would like to say a big thank you to Mark for his continued support of the team, it is very much appreciated by everyone.*



## Barry Youth scrape win in physical encounter

**BARRY youth faced Llantwit Fardre in a warm up for the ensuing Rhiwbina league game.**

Youngster Emyr Byrne had his first start and Joshua Taylor, just 16 on Thursday, came on later in the game for his first cap and subsequent black eye.

Barry were two converted tries down within the first 10 minutes – this was not going to script.

Fardre played well in the muddy conditions and kept ball in hand well, their big, intelligent No10 making all the play with the first scores attributable to him.

Barry retaliated from an attacking scrum in the opposition's 22 when captain Luke O'Sullivan broke off from No8 and drove over the line, this score went unconverted.

It was the boost Barry

needed and the forwards played better at scrum, lineout and loose, and it was from the loose that acting fly half Mephram charged down an attempted chip over, hacked through for another 30 metres and cleverly picked up and passed, all in one diving motion, to winger Mathew O'Sullivan – who charged over from 20 metres.

Flynn converted this break-out effort.

Barry responded further with a neat attacking backs move following clean possession from the forwards. A drive from centre Flynn resulted in a baseball-style pass to loitering second row Vidal, who drew and slipped a clean pass to Mathew O'Sullivan. He scored his second; this also was converted by

Flynn.

The 19-14 scoreline was a fair representation of the game as Barry had now come back into the game revengefully.

However, things went stagnant for some time as the heavens opened and conditions became unsuitable for expansive play.

Things got worse for Fardre when one of their players was red carded for repeated verbal abuse to the referee. It was here Barry should have closed the game out but, ironically, Fardre came back into their own, and repeated incursions into the Barry half were rewarded with a converted try.

With minutes to go, rain pouring and light fading, one last-ditch attempt saw Barry camped in Fardre's 22 with a ruck and drive edging them closer.

Not taking the opportunity of three points to

close the game following an infringement, and scrums not being an advantage as Fardre had elected to go uncontested, Barry drove right to the five metre line, being denied time and again.

A brace of penalties for slowing the ball down saw another Fardre player leaving the field. With one last attempt at their line, depleted Fardre eventually leaked another try through captain O'Sullivan.

This joy/frustration caused mass handbags within the forwards and the referee blew the whistle, leaving the conversion for another time.

*Team: B Wall, M O'Sullivan, J Legg, J Flynn, R Mephram, J Goodfellow, J Adams, L O'Sullivan, J Miles, S Vidal, M Howells-Davies, C Prosser, N Harris, K Davies, T Adams, J Taylor, E Byrne.*

MM

## Bonoman wins for Evan

**THE leading trainer at Ffos Las Racecourse is Llancarfan's Evan Williams, and at the west Wales track on Sunday he saddled his 39th winner there when the bottom weighted nine-year-old Bonoman**

**came home six lengths ahead of the top weighted Anay Turge in the two-mile handicap chase.**

Bonoman, a 3-1 chance, was ridden by conditional jockey Conor Ring.

BRIAN LEE

## Barrivale Bridge Club news

**LATEST results from Barrivale, November 6:**

First – Mike Best and David Birt, 64.71 per cent; second – Peter Millar and Kay Dyer, 63.41 per cent; third – Graham Jones and Irene Thomas, 54.56 per cent. Helen Jordan and Judith Owen won on handicap.

New members always welcome at Barrivale. To join, call 01446 733425 or 01446 418380, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MIKE BOND

## Good as New

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Tristan Greedy would like to inform all of his customers that due to business expansion they have moved from the Heritage Business Park, Wick Road, Llantwit Major to their new premises (next door to the Post Office sorting office), Llandow, Vale Business Park – and it's business as normal.



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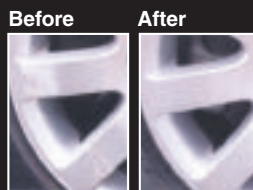
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MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS

# Problems of choosing the right car seat

MY wife and I know all about this because it is only now that 19-month-old daughter Harriett has her third one that we are finally satisfied.

When she was born we had a Mothercare model, which didn't offer the padding and support that we hoped, although it was easy to manoeuvre and slotted to the accompanying pushchair with ease. But this model was recalled as it was not fire safe.

The replacement Britax model was a disaster. With a mix of Chinese instructions and no useful advice, we quickly became disillusioned with it.

Harriett was uncomfortable and the height of the straps, which couldn't be adjusted, were too low for her, despite it being for babies up to 13kg. Harriett was only 9kg.

After much research, we found the Cosatto range of car seats, available through Toys R Us. We were instantly impressed. There is plenty of padding with good quality fabrics on the Moova - Group 1 car seat - Hello Dolly - meaning that little Harriett feels cosseted and cosy.

"It's nice and high up, bringing her in line with the window so that she can look out and enjoy the car ride," says mum Caroline Saunders.

"Harriett really enjoys car journeys now and I can relax knowing she is comfortable. It's nice that she can get into the seat herself - it's much easier.

"With the old seat I had to bend down and ease her into it, all the while trying to ensure



The Cosatto Moova - Group 1 car seat - Hello Dolly.

that I didn't hit her head on the roof. Life is much easier now and Harriett and I prefer the seatbelt fixing around the base rather than the seat."

The Moova is easy to operate, has useful, simple to follow instructions on either side of the product, and is supremely comfortable judging by our daughter's reaction.

She also enjoys the fact that it is forward facing so she can now see mummy or daddy

driving and dish out plenty of advice. She loves spotting cars - perhaps unsurprisingly one of her favourite words.

The three-point seatbelt is slotted through a metal clip (one on either side so that the seat can be used on the left or the right hand side of the car) and then through a plastic part of the base.

The belt is then pushed through a hole to the other side and the buckle clipped into the seatbelt slot. A firm and secure fit.

Already this seat has been used in a new Vauxhall Astra and my own 10-year-old Ford Fiesta.

Overall, the Cosatto gets a big thumbs up from all of us, especially Harriett.

For more information visit: [www.Cosatto.com](http://www.Cosatto.com), or: [www.Toyrus.co.uk](http://www.Toyrus.co.uk). Watch the video at: [www.testdrives.biz](http://www.testdrives.biz).

## Paying tribute to Arthur



THE Llangeinor Hunt are having a joint meet with the Glamorgan Hunt on Monday, November 19 to celebrate the 95th birthday of Arthur Board MFH,

who has been Master of the Llangeinor Hunt for 36 seasons and who is believed to be the oldest MFH in the United Kingdom.

Arthur, a contemporary of Sir Cenydd Traherne, Sir Harry Llewellyn and Neville Johns-Powell, was a former point-to-point rider of note, and it was at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases back in 1938 at Crossways that he landed a first and last race double.

Arthur won the adjacent hunts' race on Captain Monty Williams' Lady Airman, and the adjacent hunts' cobs race on his own mare Princess, who was only 15 hands high.

The picture shows Llangeinor Hunt stalwart Elyfn David (left) and Arthur at the opening meet of the Llangeinor Hunt at Bryncethin around 1975.

BRIAN LEE

# PENARTH KARATE STUDENTS' SUCCEED ON GRADING DAY

THIS month, 18 students from the Penarth AKAD (Association of Karate and Allied Disciplines) undertook their karate grading.

This involved performing basic techniques (kihon), pre-arranged sparring (kumite) and a memorised sequence of movements (kata).

One student was graded to their brown belt second Kyu (Seren James), two students to purple belt (Phoebe Lewis and Laura Ward), seven students to green belt (Felice Cirino, Megan Cirino, Alex Murphy, Hannah Murphy, Jamie Murphy, Abi Fox and Sofia Creedon).

Rebecca Kitt was awarded her yellow belt, Chris Evans and Myles Mullet were awarded their red belts and new members Caitlin Evans, Max Evans, Marina Mullet and Helen Carter were awarded their orange belts.

All their hard work over the past few months really paid off on the night with everyone successful in achieving their new grades.

The club trains on Monday and Wednesday evenings at Ysgol Pen-y-Garth's sports hall (Sully Road) from 6pm-7pm. There is also a training session on Monday evenings from 7pm-8pm for higher grades.

For further information, contact Stuart Creedon on 07919 058 069.

## Tae Kwon Do event a success

RECENTLY, TFW (Tae Kwon Do Federation of Wales) hosted their second tournament of a series of new competitions.

The event took place in Penarth Leisure Centre and consisted of more than 70 competitors taking part in sparring, patterns and special technique.

The day was a great success once again, and many talented and potential colour belt students from several clubs from around the area and further were awarded for their achievements with a long list of medals to take back to proudly show off to their instructors and fellow students.

With the success of the pilot series this year TFW aim to hold an extra event next year, extending it from two this year to three next. For further info on our clubs within the association, visit: [www.taowales.co.uk](http://www.taowales.co.uk).

IP



The Penarth AKAD.

## Funding boost for Llantwit Major sporting organisations

RIGHT: Llantwit Major Netball Club are among four sports clubs from the town that have received funding in the latest round of Community Chest grant awards in the Vale.

FOUR sports clubs in Llantwit Major are celebrating after being awarded a share of £4,522 in the latest round of Community Chest grants.

Supporting grassroots sport for over a decade, the Community Chest scheme provides funding of up to £1,500 to sports clubs and organisations in Wales to help them offer high quality opportunities for local people of all ages to take part in sport and physical activity.

The Community Chest scheme is run locally by the Vale Council's sports and play development team and agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from Sport Wales.

The panel meets every three months, and the scheme can provide funding for a variety of purposes. In the latest grant awards, Llantwit Major Bowls Club received £417, which will go towards paying for courses to improve coaching standards, while Llantwit Major Junior Football Club were awarded £1,105 to set up two under-9 teams.

Llantwit Major Netball Club will be establishing a junior section with the £1,500 they received, while a £1,500 grant will help Llantwit Major Minis and Juniors RFC purchase new equipment to

help the club to continue to grow.

Delighted with their grant, Beth Evans from Llantwit Major Netball Club said: "We now welcome players aged from 11 upwards in our new junior section and this funding will make a massive difference to the club."

"The money will be spent on buying essential items including balls, bibs and training equipment, and we will also use the funding to send club members on coaching and umpiring courses."

Mitch Gee, from Llantwit Major Junior Football Club, hopes that their grant could help them develop the next Gareth Bale or Joe Allen, saying: "We were so pleased to receive assistance from the Community Chest fund. This has allowed us to recruit two new coaches for the under-9s minis teams, provide the teams with training equipment and place the coaches on skills and first aid courses. It will also help us to pay for winter training at the leisure centre."

Coun Gwyn John, the Vale Council's cabinet member for leisure, who helped youth sport flourish in Llantwit Major through 50 years of involvement with the town's football team, said: "Llantwit Major has always been a sporty town and I am delighted to see these four sports clubs being so proactive in their



attempts to attract new members.

"As we have just enjoyed such an incredible year of British sporting achievement it is absolutely vital that we capitalise on this momentum and give the next generation the best possible chance to get into sport and emulate their heroes."

You can find out more about these four sports clubs, and others in the Vale, by visiting:

[www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay), while to discuss a potential Community Chest application for your sports club or organisation, call the Vale Council's sports and play development manager Karen Davies on 01446 704793.

You can also keep up to date with local community sports news by following @valesportsnews on Twitter.

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# GEM sport

## Samoa now a 'must-win game' after being 'comprehensively outplayed' by Argentina

### BACK PAGE COMMENT by DON JOHN

ANYONE seeking pointers for a wager on the winner of Saturday's opening clash in the 2012 autumn Dove Men series at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium would have had precious little help from the record books.

For while Wales may appear to have held the whip hand, with nine wins to Argentina's four in the previous 13 meetings between the two, the data is deceptive.

Closer study of the statistics show that with few exceptions, including the first capped match in 1991, which Wales won 16-7, they were all intense, close-fought affairs, with Los Pumas proving infinitely capable of racking up the points against Welsh teams on the back of renowned power play up front.

In the process, they had amassed a creditable 318 points in the 13 games to Wales' 376, including almost 100 points in two notable wins alone (50-44 in 2004 and 45-27 in 2006).

So, the Welsh camp should have been well-prepared and steeled for the tough challenge they faced from resolute opponents honed in battle against world rugby's big three in the southern hemisphere championship.

Indeed, captain Sam Warburton had recognised as much before the kick-off by vowing that the Six Nations champions would "hit the ground running" in order to use it (and the series) as a launch pad for a 'top four' spot - with Rugby World Cup 2015 seedings in mind.

Brave words, but 80 minutes later the pre-match optimism had been deflated by a disjointed Welsh display that was as drab as the November weather. His shaken team trudged disconsolately off the field, fortunate to escape with a 26-12 losing margin, after being com-



Disconsolate Welsh players pictured after the defeat on Saturday. Picture courtesy of: HUW EVANS PICTURE AGENCY

prehensively outplayed in all aspects of the game.

Worse still, was the bleak acceptance that the Six Nations champions had fallen well below the commendably high standards that in recent years had produced Grand Slams and had seen a talented young squad blossom on the world stage.

As acting head coach Robert Howley admitted in the post-match 'inquest', error-prone Wales had "failed to get the basics right" and, crucially, had lost the battle for possession and territory.

In reality, from the outset his remixed team appeared oddly lethargic and lacking in urgency; and it was the more purposeful visitors who immediately "hit the ground running", early pressure rewarded with a penalty slotted over by the veteran Felipe Contepomi, who was soon to leave the field injured.

Full back Leigh Halfpenny replied with the first of three first-half penalties and, amazingly, Wales went into the interval 9-6 up, against the run of play, after lively outside half Nicolas Sanchez had edged Argentina temporarily ahead with a snap drop goal.

However, the punishing first-half exchanges had resulted in two worrying casualties, Alun

Wyn Jones and Jamie Roberts, whose departures not only disrupted an already embattled Welsh effort, but also put the duo's further participation in the series in doubt.

There was to be no respite after the changeover, as an increasingly forceful Argentina stepped up the pressure on a scrambling Welsh side that, in contrast, gave the impression of still practicing their moves on the training ground.

Within minutes, Puma pressure resulted in two (failed) penalties for the visitors and, ironically, it was Wales who then went further ahead when Halfpenny kicked a fourth penalty to make it 12-6 with just over half an hour to go.

That was more than enough time for Argentina to complete their dominance. Sanchez popped over his second drop goal; and the home team then yielded two soft converted tries by impressive wings Gonzalo Camacho and Juan Imhoff (to underline yet again that today's Pumas, most of whom now play at the highest level in Europe, are not just about beefy forward power).

As for Wales, in the absence of head coach Warren Gatland (now on secondment to the British and Irish Lions) the hope must be that

as Howley asserted, this setback was just a "bad day at the office", and that there will be no long-term damage to players' morale, already low after the Welsh regions' continuing failure in Europe.

More immediately, there is the only slightly less intimidating prospect of the Samoans looming over the Millennium Stadium on Friday evening and with casualties mounting, Howley and his fellow coaches will need to make quite sure that this time they get the team selection right for what is now a 'must-win' match.

After all, it will be followed just eight days later by the ultimate test - against the all-conquering All Blacks, who imperiously brushed aside the Scots with a 51-22 brisk run-out at Murrayfield on Sunday.

### WALES TEAM v SAMOA:

Leigh Halfpenny; Alex Cuthbert, Ashley Beck, Jamie Roberts, George North; Dan Biggar, Mike Phillips; Paul James, Richard Hibbard, Aaron Jarvis, Bradley Davies, Ian Evans, Ryan Jones (c), Justin Tipuric, Toby Faletau. Replacements: Ken Owens, Gethin Jenkins, Scott Andrews, Luke Charteris, Sam Warburton, Tavis Knolly, Rhys Priestland, Scott Williams.

## DINAS POWYS FAIL TO SCORE AGAIN AS THEY SLIP TO LOSS

IT is easy to see where Dinas Powys are going wrong with this being their third straight game without a goal, as they went down 3-0 against Newport YMCA.

It was the visitors who started strongly forcing a number of corners, with the towering Daniel Heath giving the home side plenty of problems and it took just five minutes for assistant manager Aaron Stewart to head home at the near post with the defence concentrating too much on Heath.

Matt Trottman was doing well for the home side and when his cross gave Mark Dunford a chance to head the ball on for Gareth Tedstone, he forced keeper Gareth Wesson to save with his feet giving away a corner, but again Wesson was equal to Dunford's effort on goal from the corner.

Following Dinas pressure Steve Provis' lofted cross into the area was gathered by the keeper under pressure from Chris Hinam. A free-kick 40 yards from goal was touched on by Hinam but Dunford couldn't get a good connection and the ball ran out for a goal-kick.

As in the previous game Dinas conceded just on half-time when

they lost the ball on half-way and allowed Oliver Beckett a clear run down the left.

He made his way into the area and when everybody was expecting a cross he fired in from an acute angle to send the visitors in with a comfortable two-goal lead.

Dinas continued to press for a way back into this game with Dunford having a shot blocked and James Williams heading for goal only to see it deflected behind for a corner.

A mistake in the Newport defence gave Steffan Davies a clear run on goal but his shot was too close to the keeper and the chance was gone.

For YMCA, Martin Phillips produced a good run and cross from the right touchline with nobody able to get a head on it, but it was his last piece of action as he was dismissed for a rash tackle with fifteen minutes to go.

Dinas brought on Liam Jeremy and Nicky Bruce and changed formation, pushing three up front and playing just

three at the back, but they couldn't find a way through the visitors' defence and right on full-time they conceded a third when Beckett got his second goal, finishing off a break from six yards with a cool finish.

Dinas created plenty of chances but again failed to convert any and it was the visitors who showed them where the goal was and were clinical with their finishing.

This Saturday they travel to Croesyceiliog with a 2pm kick-off.

Squad: Damian Lack, Steve Provis, Chris Hinam, Mike Lewis, Keiron Harman, Adam Raymond (c), James Williams, Steffan Davies, Matt Trottman, Mark Dunford, Gareth Tedstone. Subs: Liam Jeremy, Nicky Bruce, James Bloxham.

For further news and fixtures see the club's website: [www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk](http://www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk)

MORLEY WILLIAMS

## Camelots rise to the (chess) task

AFTER previously recording the rollercoaster nature of the Camelots' results, it is pleasing to note that they have now registered two consecutive wins to move them back to the top of the second division of the East Glamorgan Chess League.

The Camelots took on the might of Porthcawl, one of the early season promotion challengers, and were able to put out a strong team. The Camelots won on four boards and achieved a draw on the other to record a 4 1/2 to 1 1/2 victory.

This was quickly followed by a visit to St John's College in Cardiff. This was a closer game but ended in victory by a margin of 3 1/2 to 1 1/2. Perhaps the most pleasing individual performance came when Lee Davis defeated Paul Tew - a player who was previously a member of the Barry club.

This match also fea-

tured the first defeat in this division this season for Craig Woolcock, an ever-present member of the team who has personally contributed five wins from his six games.

This round of matches also saw a surprising defeat for one of our promotion rivals, Bridgend, allowing us to extend our lead to three points as we complete the first

third of the season. For more details visit our website: [barrychessclub.yolasite.com](http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com).

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY with matches starting at 7.30pm. New players of all ages and standards welcomed.

PHIL JONES

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